

Thank you, thank you, thank you!
**You can't imagine how this
 changed my life** and stress
 levels. I feel like a ton of bricks has
 been lifted off my chest and I can
 breathe now.” — 4TH YEAR AGRICULTURE STUDENT

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It's not that I'm a creep, it's that I refuse to hide from who I am



PAUL
 KNOECHEL

There's only so many times I can deal with hearing "You look like a '60s-era pedophile in your headbox photo," before I give in. That's right you fuckers, I'm folding; you beat me. Consider this the closing "fuck you" on my attempt to look a little different.

My take on attractiveness has always been a little under the radar, relegated to my short stint on the underground German film scene, until a few short months ago when the iron-fisted Opinion Editor decided that everyone needed to get new headbox photos to run alongside their Gateway articles and I decided to let the true me out.

Slicked hair with scraggly wisps here and there, hints of a five o'clock shadow, and a Hugh Hefner-worthy open lounging jacket exposing my manly chest for all the world to see—admittedly, you don't get much of that in the photograph, what with it being cropped to exclude my patchy love rug. Fascists.

But society has always found a way to stomp down and criticize the brave few that attempt to break the mould—those heroes who fight conformity by refusing to shower daily, and who are oblivious to the fact that hair gel is "so 1997." And sadly, I'm no exception.

Because of my individualism, mockery followed me around every corner—much more than usual, that is—and haunted my dreams. My shallow well of loyal readers that I used to draw on for a quick lay dried up as if someone

put out the word that I have herpes. And for the record, it was only crabs, so not only am I all cleaned up now, but now I'm supporting some shortly trimmed underbrush, much like an Olympic diver.

The saddest thing is that I wasn't even that bad when it got right down to it—I mean, it's not like I'm running around town mixing stripes with plaids like a confused chameleon or wearing black socks under my Birkenstock sandals. Judge me all you want, but those people have the real problems. I'm just trying to stand out from the crowd a little bit, but there are certain lines you just don't cross, and the real judgement should be saved for those motherfuckers trying to bring back suspenders. There's trend-setting, and then there's just douchebaggery, and clearly, some people need to be taught the difference.

Furthermore, I don't know why I'm the guy that's not getting laid like a champ around here. I'm fuckin' awesome enough to step out of this little box that the man says I should fit in by using something like bacon grease to slick down my hair, and all of a sudden, chicks are too good to sleep with me. Take a chance, ladies! I'm fuckin' bustin' my balls in the gym, and it's not right that the guy that doesn't even know that if you're short you're supposed to wear lifts on the first date is out there getting bitches because he has "confidence." Learn the rules, asshole!

But I'm ready to fit in now; I've studied the university style at all the bars. I've got my shirt with the buttons only buttoned halfway up to show off my freshly waxed chest, my collar popped, a six-pack of Axe body spray, and my new fuckin' haircut. I'm finally ready to hit the bars, drink my Jager bombs, and score myself some fuckin' skanks. Because, apparently, that's how it's supposed to be done.

“There's no money in poetry, but then
 there's no poetry in money, either.”

—Robert Graves, 1895–1985



Student Poetry Contest

(with apologies to Mr. Graves)

1st prize:
 \$1,000 and publication
 in the 2008 Convocation
 Programs

2nd prize: \$500

3rd prize: \$250

In honour of the University's centenary, the University of Alberta Alumni Association invites students in their graduating year to submit poems inspired by the

University's motto, and centenary theme,

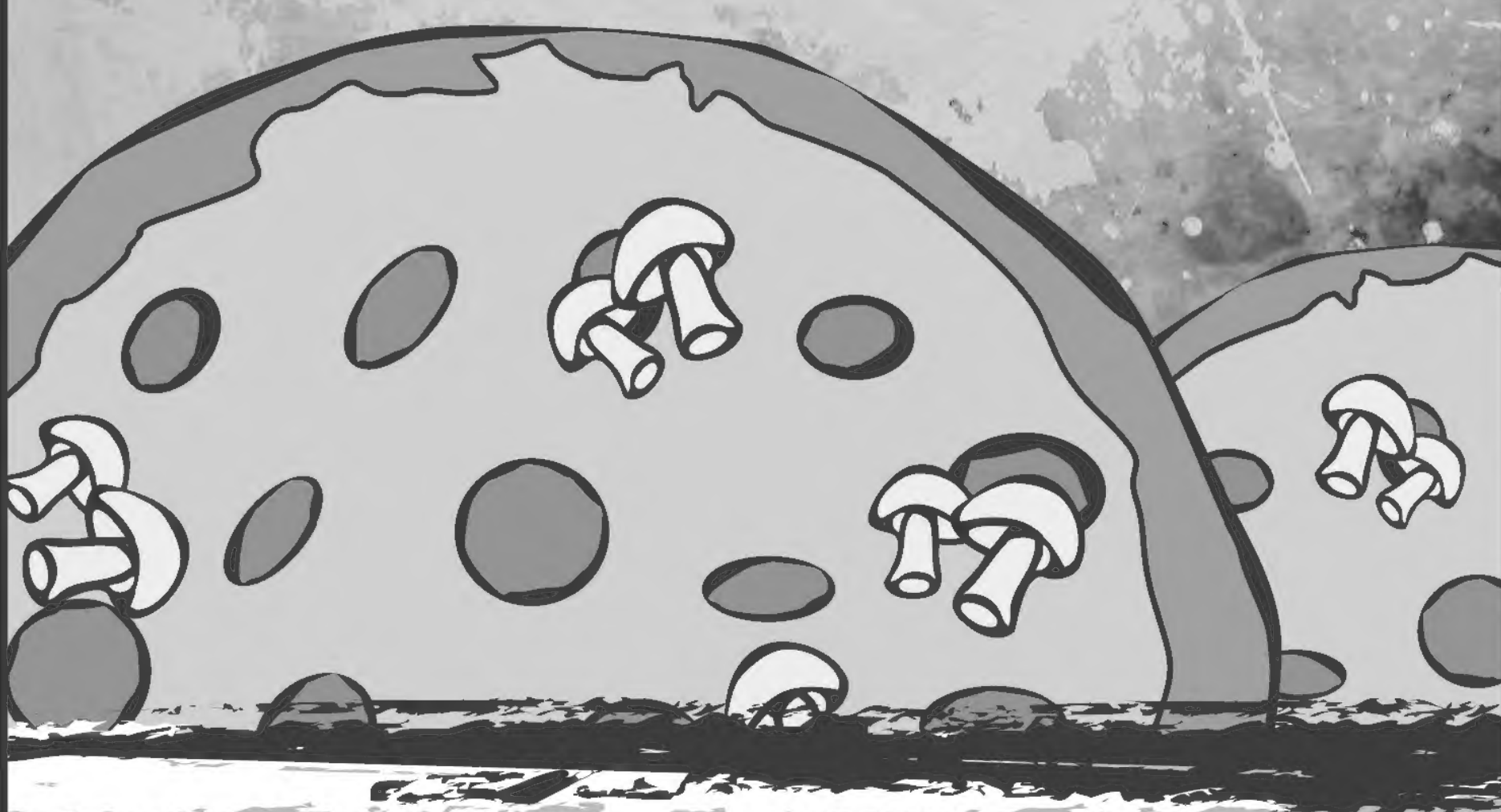
“Quaecumque vera — whatsoever things are true.”



Contest Deadline: Friday, April 11, 2008

For a complete list of rules visit
www.ualberta.ca/alumni/poetry
 or call 492-7726

PIZZA PARTY!



You are invited to join
President Indira Samarasekera
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 to celebrate the end of winter term.

When: Tuesday, April 8; noon

Where: Celebration Plaza, outside
 the main entrance of the Administration
 Building.

Complimentary pizza will be available
 just show your valid student ONEcard.

Bring your classmates — the first 1200
 students will be served.

For more information contact the
 event coordinator at 492-1525.

Hope exists for LGBT Muslims



JUNAID
JAHANAGIR

Edmonton, despite Alberta's red-neck fame, is home to both the oldest North American mosque and the first North American Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) youth camp. Both the Pride Centre and Muslim Community act to support their respective members; however, it's nearly impossible to bring elements of both together owing to intransigence on the Muslim side, the limited resources of the LGBT, and the unwillingness of Muslim LGBT to reconcile the diametrically opposed facets of their existence.

It's not news to say that both sides are subject to discrimination and stereotypes. The American Muslim community has, at times, been wrongfully portrayed as potentially abetting heinous acts of terrorism, and on other occasions, you'll find messages that paint all queers as disease-infected child molesters.

Naturally, queer practicing Muslims weave a cocoon of restrictive pretence. Whereas the *hijab* or a beard expose them to the scrutiny of the general public, their refusal to marry unleashes the wrath of forbidding cultural traditions. But despite the barriers they face, there's still hope.

Western LGBTs have made great strides toward the integration and cementing of their rights in the post-2005 era of same-sex marriage. Affirming United Churches wed same sex couples, libraries have sections on queer literature, support groups provide

resources to LGBT parents, and academia works on cutting-edge queer theory. However, such achievements aren't shared by their Muslim peers, in whose lives words like "sodomy" overpower those like "heteronormativity."

Though the LGBT community has accomplished much, these successes mean little to practicing Muslim LGBT. The language of a tradition based on civic rights can't simply be used to address other cultural norms that employ the language of Classical Islamic jurisprudence.

Classical Muslim thought has within it the capacity for a discourse that is tolerant and respectful of queerness.

Fortunately, an alternative, yet mainstream, Muslim discourse exists that can be summoned to address the status quo in a firm yet respectful manner so that future generations of Muslim LGBTs won't face freezing silence from their faith-based family.

Indeed, a whole school of Muslim scientists deemed homosexuality as an inherited trait hundreds of years before the revolutionary American Psychological Association statements. Moreover, the strong opinions of revered scholars like Ibn Hazm and Abu Hanifa of the Qur'anic verses on the people of Lot (Sodom) who oppose the use of these verses for injunctions on homosexual conduct. Their opinions lend support to the alternate belief that the divine addressed violent rape as wrong, not loving same-sex unions.

Furthermore, in Islamic scriptures, there's an absence of any express directives in regard to same-sex unions. And if you begin to consider rules of Classical Islamic jurisprudence—such as "necessity trumps prohibitions" and "general rules always allow for exceptions"—they can be seen to form a strong counterweight against the rigid traditions, which scholarly work has estimated to be weak and concocted.

Given the above, one wonders if it would be too much to ask the mainstream clergy to address the plight of Muslim LGBTs. Perhaps this is why some mainstream Imams like the late Zaki Badawi have gone so far as to encourage gay Muslims to form chaste civil unions with their same-sex partners under British law. However, no North American Muslim scholar has as yet effectively addressed the subject—perhaps due to the more pressing concerns of a community that finds itself under duress from the Islamophobic generalizations within society at large.

Hope lies in the efforts of fringe queer Muslim groups like Salaam Canada, openly gay Imams like Daayiee Abdullah, and alternative groups like the Muslim Canadian Congress. Paradoxically, hope also lies in statements coming from religious discussions in Muslim countries like Indonesia. Recently, some moderate Muslim scholars have boldly stated that homosexuals and homosexuality are natural and created by God, and thus permissible within Islam.

Classical Muslim thought has within it the capacity for a discourse that is tolerant and respectful of queerness. And with more work, more voices, and above all the determination of Muslim LGBTs, it will only be a matter of time before mainstream Islam will support same-sex unions.

Media ignores bloody war in Congo



GREG
QUEYRANNE

Since 1998, more people have died in the war in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) than in any other conflict since WWII. In the nearly ten years since it began, the conflict and the humanitarian catastrophe it created has killed a total of 5.4 million people, with an estimated 45 000 dead every month, according to a new mortality survey produced by the International Rescue Committee—that's an average of 1500 deaths every day.

In spite of this astonishingly high mortality figure, few people know about what some have called "Africa's First World War."

In August 1998, the war was launched when Rwanda and Uganda, under the pretext of a Congolese rebellion, invaded eastern Congo in an attempt to overthrow President Laurent Kabila—himself installed by Rwanda and Uganda's 1996–97 invasion of what was then called Zaire, which overthrew the long-time dictator Mobutu. Angola, Namibia, and Zimbabwe came to the aid of the Congolese government as Burundi joined the invaders, producing an Africa-wide war, with all combat theatres on Congolese soil.

For years, half of the Congo—a country about the size of Western

Europe—was split in half, with Rwanda militarily occupying the east, Uganda the north, and the Congolese government and its regional allies controlling the west and south. Throughout this period, Rwanda and Uganda, along with its rebel counterparts, made millions of dollars by systematically exploiting the Congo's vast mineral wealth—especially gold, diamonds, cobalt, copper, and coltan. While Rwanda and Uganda removed their militaries from the DRC in 2002–03, they left behind a network of proxy rebel groups to continue the mineral exploitation.

Numerous multinational corporations have been found to be profiting from the conflict, since, as author Adam Hochschild has argued, they don't have to "worry about high taxes" and "prefer a cash-in-suitcases economy to a highly regulated one." The UN Panel of Experts goes further, saying that the "role of the private sector in the exploitation of natural resources and the continuation of the war has been vital. A number of companies have been involved and have fuelled the war directly, trading arms for natural resources," and adding that it considers "companies trading minerals [...] to be 'the engine of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.'"

Of particular importance is the exploitation of coltan—a mineral essential for our modern high-technology-based economy. Coltan is processed into capacitors, and due to its ability to conduct electrical charges, it's found in a wide range of consumer electronics such as cell phones,

laptops, DVD players, and video game consoles. It has also come to be known in some circles as "blood coltan," since much of the coltan in our high-tech gadgets comes from and has helped fuel the conflict in the Congo.

The effects of the war on women have also been horrendous. Throughout the conflict, women and girls have been the victim of extreme sexual violence. Yakin Erturk, special rapporteur for the UN Human Rights Council on violence against women, notes that the violent acts committed against women in the eastern province of South Kivu "are of an unimaginable brutality that goes far beyond rape." It's been estimated that in South Kivu alone, approximately 45 000 women were raped in 2005. As *The Guardian* reported in late 2007, "75 per cent of all the rape cases" that the medical charity Doctors Without Borders "deals with worldwide are in eastern Congo."

The continuing conflict in the Congo is the biggest war of this generation. While the media has focused its attention elsewhere, the conflict continues to claim an estimated 45 000 lives every month—even though the war has officially ended. With 5.4 million silently killed in nearly ten years, much of it fought over mineral resources such as coltan, Western consumers like ourselves must demand that our economy and consumer habits don't continue to fuel this war. As well, we must make sure that people know of this conflict so that it does not, as so many tragedies do, become a forgotten part of history.

FEATURED STUDENT GROUP FOR MARCH

THE COLLECTIVE
BODY *for* ARTS
STUDENTS



Purpose of the Group:

The Collective Body for Arts Students is the new Faculty Association for Arts undergraduates at the University of Alberta. In their first year of existence, CBAS has been instrumental in reaching out to the students they represent, and diligent in connecting to and advocating for the constituents. CBAS is always searching for new, innovative and meaningful forms of feedback. They have worked especially hard to form respectful, pragmatic and mutually beneficial relationships between students and faculty. A perfect example of CBAS' constructive relationships is evident in their work with the faculty to create a meaningful granting program for Departmental Associations and Arts-affiliated student groups to support their initiatives.

The Collective Body for Arts Students will continue making waves with the solid foundations they have set for future years as representatives for the student body. Their openness and enthusiasm has paved the way for a legacy of involvement, interaction and input for Arts students in their faculty.

WWW.UALBERTA.CA/~CBFORAS
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*Some say that summer vacation is like
panda on a snow slide.*



Sure, that might not make sense, but who gives a shit, it's fucking summer you don't have to be logical—unless you write for the *Gateway* that is.

That's right, we're still pumping out the occasional issue this summer, so be sure to keep us informed on how you're spending your summer vacation.

GATEWAY OPINION

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Horrors and mysteries of HUB



LENA
SALEH

As the end of the semester rapidly approaches, I find myself experiencing an overwhelming feeling of emptiness. I'm not sure that I'm ready to leave the University for four months without having a few questions answered and picking on a few people in the process. So here it is, my first-year exposé on HUB Mall.

First, I'd like to focus on the fact that HUB smells really bad—not Tory bad or even Bio Sci bad, but icky-greasy-food bad, which is worse. I understand that the plethora of food retailers have no other option but to release the smells of their various ethnic cuisines into the mall, but that's nothing an intricate network of tubes can't fix.

No, I don't mean the Internet, just better ventilation. And though you might think that HUB does have ventilation—as those giant fans hanging from the ceiling would suggest—those don't count, as the dust and grease residue anchored to each of them is so thick that I imagine it will one day come to life and terrorize people standing in the massive lineup at Edo. And those fans don't purify air—they just contribute to the problem. Now, I'll admit that I've never smelled one up close, but I'm sure that it's about as far away from honeysuckle as you can possibly get.

What's worse is the effect HUB's

atmosphere has had on the local fauna. When you sit on the FAB side of HUB, you get the opportunity to hear the pleasant chirping of a little birdie, and for a second, you're transported out of another mundane school day straight into a Bounce commercial.

However, being the omnivorous animal sympathizer that I am, I feel terrible that this little creature lives in a place with such polluted air.

I'd like to focus on the fact that HUB smells really bad—not Tory bad or even Bio Sci bad, but icky-greasy-food bad, which is worse.

Hearing this birdie's pleasant chirps has led to me believe that it can't possibly be a mere bird, but is most likely some type of mutated avian creature—I like to think it's a former HUB Mall resident that experienced an unfortunate series of accidents with month-old cooking grease and hazardous waste from the chemistry building.

Whatever this creature may be, it would still need to get fed—I mean, what does this thing eat? Sure, it could forage for scraps in the overfilled garbage cans, but a creature clever enough to survive in the harshly toxic wasteland that is HUB has to be more original than that. Perhaps this bird breaks into Subway late at night and make itself a six inch ham and cheese sub with ranch dressing and

sub-sauce, or maybe there's a caretaker that feeds it.

The question also remains as to where this bird might sleep. There could be an apartment in HUB rented out to a group of these bird people, or it might have nested on the roof someplace where it hibernates. If anyone knows any information about this mystical bird creature, I strongly urge you to write a letter to the *Gateway* to let me know. How am I supposed to enjoy my four months of captivity inside the fenced prison that is the Toys R Us electronics department when this mystery hangs above my head?

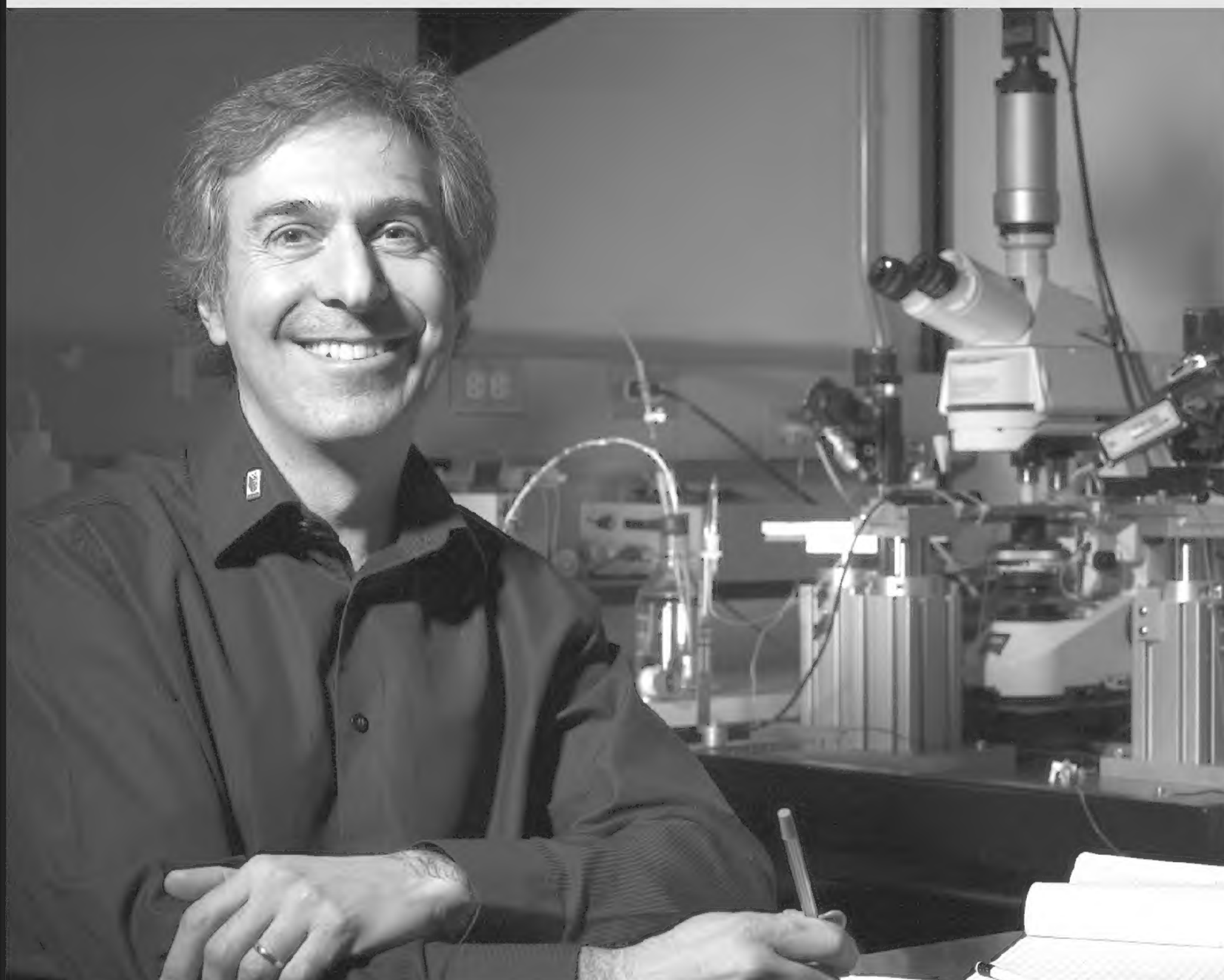
I'd also like to inform students about the safety hazards of walking against oncoming traffic in the mall. During any other time of the school year, it would be nothing more than a nuisance or an activity that caused minor bruising after inevitably experiencing a violent beating from at least five different backpacks. However, with the forthcoming arrival of final exams, many normal, cautious people will be walking around HUB with their eyes glued to a textbook. As a result, said traffic violations will become more common and serious. Even if you're not reading or staring at the ceiling in hopes of catching a glimpse of the mystical bird, be careful when you can, and remember to play dodge-that-kid.

No matter how entertaining a fight between two sleep-deprived students appears to be, I strongly encourage tolerance and understanding. After all, everyone wants to make it out alive, breathe clean air, and, like me, end the mystery surrounding the bird people of HUB Mall.

AHFMR Independent Investigator Information Session

Monday, April 7, 2008 12:00PM – 1:30PM

Room: 2-07 - Heritage Medical Research Centre



The Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR) is hosting an information session at the University of Alberta for independent investigators. This session will familiarize prospective applicants and other interested investigators from all Departments & Faculties with the Foundation and the kinds of programs and opportunities that are available, how to apply for funding, recent funding and program changes, and upcoming deadlines.

The session will be hosted by Dr. Pamela Valentine, Acting Director of AHFMR Grants and Awards, followed by Q&A's.

All are welcome to attend

For more information:

dbrunner@ahfmr.ab.ca – 780.423.5727

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Help Wanted

Students and administration alike must deal with the province's labour shortage.

A feature by Tom Wagner, Jon Taves and Sean Steels
Photos by Mike Otto

Alberta's booming economy has been a mixed blessing for the province. Some employers can't find the people to fill their openings, while some employees are making out like bandits with rising wages. Housing is nearly impossible to find, construction projects are delayed and costly, and there has never been a higher demand for workers.

Just as with any other institution or company in Alberta, the current labour shortage has affected the University of Alberta's ability to continue on with normal business and, in particular, to maintain old buildings and construct new ones. Though the shortage hasn't significantly affected every profession, it's come down hard on many jobs at the University.

"In some areas, there are shortages, and in other areas, there are surpluses," Joan Schiebelbein, director of Career and Placement Services (CaPS), explains. "I think what's important about this time is there are severe labour shortages in probably more areas than there have been in the past and fewer surpluses that aren't as severe as they may have been in the past."

Unfortunately, some of the most severe shortages are in the trades, which has strongly affected the construction of new projects around the University, making them cost more and take longer.

"Cost of labour's going up, availability of labour's going down, and productivity of labour's going down," says Don Hickey, University Vice-President (Facilities & Operations). "All three of them end up costing more money and add time to projects."

The University has been forced to deal with these issues in a number of ways. One of the major problems is that many of the older buildings on campus are beginning to show their age, and their mechanical and electrical systems are starting to break down. Because of a lack of labour, however, many of these projects have been put on hold.

"We can only do so much a year, and if you don't have the labour, some stuff gets postponed to the next year," Hickey explains.

The increased costs have also forced a change in the plans for the construction of new buildings, such as a reduction in scope, in order to offset ever-increasing costs. However, the labour shortage hasn't affected every sector of construction and maintenance at the University equally. While both deferred maintenance, such as replacing buildings' roofs and the construction of new buildings have been severely affected by the labour shortage, routine or preventative maintenance hasn't faced the same problems.

According to Kyle Marshall, President of the Lister Hall Students' Association (LHSA), the University has managed to provide adequate levels of maintenance in residences despite the labour shortage.

"The maintenance workers here do their best. Of course, with the labour shortage in Alberta it's tough for them to take care of every problem in the residence at a very fast speed," Marshall admits. "[But] things tend to get taken care of within a reasonable amount of time."

Much like the University though, students are increasingly having to deal with inflated costs of everything from rent to services in part because of the ever-rising cost of labour.

"Certain residents will complain about getting a \$50 charge for getting a box removed from a hallway," Marshall notes. "The reason we're given for that being is that that is out of the realm of the normal duties that a housekeeper should be doing. However, that's a pretty astronomical cost for something that seems so small."

Overall, however, the U of A has actually been quite successful in managing labour costs for preventative maintenance while still providing services. Unlike construction or deferred maintenance, which are handled by outside contractors, preventative maintenance is done by University staff.

According to Schiebelbein, this has worked in favour of the University, which up to this point has been fairly successful at attracting workers because of the many relative perks of working for it. Apart from the competitive pay and benefits, the University also has an advantage over many other employers by offering jobs in the city.

"One of the issues with a lot of trades is that for a lot of the big projects that are happening where there is a high demand for labour, people are having to work away from where they live," Schiebelbein explains. "I think sometimes people find it attractive to be able to find work where they live, and so, this is something the University can provide."

FEATURE CONTINUES ON PAGE 14



Little Change in the registrar

But workers aren't the only manpower the University is doing a good job of recruiting through the labour shortage. While the expensive prices being paid for work continue to climb, the demand in the long-term investment of a university education hasn't dropped—at least at the U of A.

"What some schools seem to be experiencing is that they are unable to fill all their spots. That is overwhelmingly not an issue for us," said Carl Amrhein, Provost and University Vice-President (Academic). "We could admit many more students than we currently do; we just don't have enough funded positions for them."

Although overall enrolment hasn't suffered, there has been a shift in a number that's more difficult to calculate.

"Where we start to see possible effects of the Alberta economy is whether or not students stay to complete their degree," Amrhein admitted. "We think part of that retention issue is students taking economic opportunities elsewhere. [...] We know some of our students are going to the oil patch before they graduate."

U of A registrar Gerry Kendal adds that while 67 per cent is the approximate figure for retention, there are many variables, such as people taking a year off or international students who stay for only part of a degree.

"[Last year], 8100 students came that were new to the university. That's out of 30 000—roughly a quarter of the population," Kendal explained. "Looking at the larger numbers, like net inflow, we're doing fairly well."

Colleges in smaller Albertan towns have experienced difficulties filling their seats. However

Amrhein believes a straightforward, co-operative transfer program has helped to ease those troubles.

"Us not being concerned is different from saying there are no concerns. We are working with some other colleges to help them stabilize their admissions pipelines," he said. "[Campus Alberta] is probably the most integrated post-secondary system I've come across. It's really quite remarkable."

Amrhein notes that overall, postsecondary participation rates are low in the province, and the changing demographics of students could be indicative of the type of economy here.

"We are seeing a substantial shift in the gender balance of undergraduate students," he noted. "There are some experts who say that, in Alberta, the job opportunities are more attractive to young men than they are young women. Young men seem more willing to take quick, short-term financial gain as opposed to more patient long-term investment."

The University continues to actively pursue new students despite already high applicant numbers.

"We are [recruiting] to ensure we always have quality students coming in. We never want to get in a position where we're coming from behind," Kendal explained.

Amrhein noted that part of that includes promoting the benefits of that long-term investment.

"The numbers are overwhelming from Statistics Canada on the economic return of a university education," he pointed out. "But it's hard sometimes to convince a young person you've got to do this for four years when you could go drive a big truck for \$100 000 a year."

Many people are opting into trades and other technical training instead of a traditional university degree in order to get into the workforce sooner.

Schools like the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) are being overwhelmed.

"Over the last year, 500 new people a week have been applying to

apprentices. And if that doesn't frighten everybody, nothing will," Don Yurchuk, registrar and Dean of Admissions at NAIT, explained.

Yurchuk added that the institute has been asked to take on 32 000 apprentices each year, but only about 16 000 will complete their training this year.

"It's an impossible situation," he says. "We need about half a billion [dollars] of infrastructure to do that."

It's a circumstance he believes needs to be addressed because of the economy's dependence on the trades.

"The next time you're tying to cross a bridge and the bridge isn't finished so you need to detour, that's because there's no welders to do the work," he noted. "Alberta's fabric is based on these journeymen who actually do the

We are fortunate; it's just, we can't squander it. We have to keep working at it," Kendal said.

The job market's half-empty

With the trades and labour-intensive job sectors desperate for workers, there's a trickle-down effect on both students looking for summer work and those graduating from the U of A. Although a surplus of unfilled jobs has been created in the oil sector by tarsands development—a wealth of opportunity in itself for students trained in that field—that same development has a cascade of repercussions in other sectors. For students, many of these repercussions are positive,

"...YOUNG MEN SEEM MORE WILLING TO TAKE QUICK, SHORT-TERM FINANCIAL GAIN AS OPPOSED TO MORE PATIENT LONG-TERM INVESTMENT."

CARL AMRHEIN
PROVOST & UNIVERSITY VP (ACADEMIC)

physical work. [...] Our most desperate need right now is more seats for apprentices."

Tyler Thorburne is an apprentice millwright who will attend four months of classroom training at NAIT over the next two years before reaching journeyman status. He graduated from high school in 2005 and now spends about 55–65 hours week working on natural gas equipment in and around Edmonton for over \$26 per hour.

"After I graduated, I had a lot of options. I had about an 80 per cent average," he said. "The reason I didn't want to go to university was that I was sick of homework and wanted financial gain. I couldn't imagine going into debt, like a majority of students do. Also, I had no idea what I would want to do in university. I was just ready to work."

Kendal admitted that this type of opportunity can be enticing, but too many people taking it hasn't been a major concern for the U of A. The important thing is capitalizing on the potential that the University has.

"When it comes down to it, I'm not suggesting we've got it easy here, but a lot of other places have found it a lot more difficult.

including a greatly increased pool of jobs from which to choose their summer employment or careers as a result of people vacating their positions to move into the oil sector.

"Last year, we posted 3054 [job] postings, and within a posting, there could be a company wanting to hire up to 15 students," Blessie Mathew, an advisor with CaPS, explained. "Our job postings have gone up by approximately 1000 postings since then. We're seeing a definite increase in companies interested in hiring university students."

Many employers are also doing a great deal to enhance communication with students on campus, whose degrees they see as an indicator of greater capability and enhanced employability.

"We're seeing employers be more anxious about what they can do beyond participating in services like job postings and career fairs to get their names in front of students," Schiebelbein said. "They're trying harder to get applications from the students they're targeting and are asking us, 'What else can we do here? Are there other ways we might be able to get an edge over our competition?' and things like that."

A statement like that is indication enough of the changed times. When once students strove to keep a nose ahead of their competition and outshine other resumé, companies are now fighting just to catch the eye of students.





Mathew further explained that companies are going so far as to set up discipline- and industry-specific career speaker forums.

"We put together panels of speakers to talk about women advocacy or civil engineering or things like that," Mathew said. "It could be for a faculty, a department, a specific industry. We just did one for working abroad."

Companies are also using other means to attract students besides one-on-one forums, she said. In addition to being offered increased salaries, students are receiving tuition coverage options and easily available scholarships. They're also seeing spaces left in senior-level positions within companies by employees leaving their positions for oil money and retirement.

"We're seeing that students who are ready to take on challenges are able to advance through companies further and more quickly," she said.

Summer employment, like career choice, has benefited greatly from the province's drop in available labourers.

Schiebelbein explained that students' summer jobs are traditionally chosen based on two criteria: pay and the career-related experience associated with the job.

"In the past, some students have maybe had to compromise and take a job that they don't see as benefiting their career because of the pay. I think we're now seeing the opportunity for students to reach both of those objectives with summer employment," she said.

Melville McMillan, a professor in the U of A's Department of Economics, also surmised students would see increased opportunities from within university programs.

"Usually students are just looking for work, and I suspect there are more opportunities developing in the co-op areas," he said.

But McMillan also pointed out that the province's economic situation could have downsides for the future.

"When we have to do things like import as much labour as we are from eastern Canada, you have to ask yourself if we're developing too fast," he said.

"This is a very resource-driven boom that we're in right now. That drives up costs for others, and when labour prices go up, we see things like the departure

which eliminated 900 jobs.

Schiebelbein also cited a lack of economic diversity as a danger associated with Alberta's situation.

"[The economy]'s having different effects in different fields in terms of increasing the number of positions and opportunities, some of which are very temporary," she said. "It can

undermine other types of industry like the forestry industry because it becomes so much more expensive to live in Alberta."

Mathew agreed that emphasis should be placed on an awareness of the inevitable bust that comes with a boom.

"We encourage students to take some of these [temporary jobs associated with the oil boom], but we also tell them they need to be

constantly managing their careers," she said.

She explained that students should always be looking for opportunities to increase their skill, increase their involvement, and take initiative because that will lead to other opportunities. Then, when they arrive at a situation where their job might not be there anymore, they have some options.

And if there's one thing that the current boom is doing for students, it's creating options, even as it takes them away from the universities. Though the University of Alberta is managing to survive rising maintenance and construction costs—and even the call of the oil fields for potential students—it's getting harder as more jobs open up and wages continue to rise. Still, this negative effect on schools translates into a positive effect on students in the short-term, as their prospects for finding that sweet summer gig or landing that dream job after graduation go up with the price of oil.

"In the past, some students have maybe had to compromise and take a job that they don't see as benefiting their career because of the pay. I think we're now seeing the opportunity for students to reach both of those objectives with summer employment."

JOAN SCHIEBELBEIN
DIRECTOR OF CAREER AND PLACEMENT SERVICES (CAPS)

of Dell," he added, referencing the computer giant's recent announcement to close their Edmonton call centre,

They see me rollin'

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by **MIKE OTTO**

photos by **SAM BROOKS** and **MIKE OTTO**



I started commuting by bicycle last summer; I didn't have any special athletic ability, and still don't. I just figured I could save a few bucks on gas and get some exercise at the same time. That's the beauty of bicycle commuting: you may choose it for one specific reason, but there are other perks as well.

"There are too many good reasons to bicycle. You get a better connection to your community; it's a slower pace of life; it's better for the environment; it breaks down the barrier of our metal capsule that motor vehicle operators have around them," Michael Kalmanovitch, President of the Edmonton Bicycle Commuters Society (EBCS), explains.

"Cars are good tools, but we overabuse them. It's a default form of transportation for most people."

Saying it's a slower pace of life may be a bit misleading, but it's certainly a less stressful way to get around. While the cars are lining up on the freeways, filled with drivers who know their wages are being turned into greenhouse gases, you can avoid all that nonsense and enjoy a relaxing ride on a quiet side street.

Most drivers think their car is the fastest way to get around, but consider the distance you travel on your daily commute. Now think about how long it takes you to get where you're going. You look at the speedometer and see you're going 50km per hour, but if you do the math, it's clear that, on average, you're moving a lot slower—time spent bumper to bumper at a red light adds up.

The point isn't that you'll get to your destination as fast as your car-driving peers, but that you'll do it with minimal impact to both the environment and your wallet, and you'll arrive after a refreshing trip through the neighbourhood.

"In a car, you actually create your own environment by adjusting the temperature; you have a windshield; you have a roof; you have your own music; you can shut out the outside. You're just moving through this wonderful space called earth, but you're not attached to it; you're not involved in it," Kalmanovitch says. "With a bicycle, you're actually *in* the environment. It's really hard to ride a bicycle without a smile on your face sometimes."

Convertibles are the iconic pleasure vehicle specifically because of a feature they share with bicycles. Most drivers get around cushioned in a cocoon of glass, the world travelling by muffled and distorted as a projection on the inside of the windshield.

That may sound a little strange, but talk to any cyclist—or motorcyclist, for that matter—and you'll see that they understand the allure of an open vehicle. You notice the little things: the clang of a neighbour checking his mailbox, the cute girls and boys on the sidewalk, the latest batch of graffiti on the newspaper box. It's these

little things that make our daily lives all the more real, but it's not only about the immediate enjoyment of the trip.

"It's healthier. So many people drive their car to the gym so they can work out," Kalmanovitch points out. And while bike commuting won't suddenly put you in amazing shape, any exercise helps, and cycling will increase your endurance and cardiovascular health. Like any exercise, starting out isn't always easy. Just pace yourself; if you arrive at your destination drenched in sweat, you need to slow down. After a few months, you'll be launching through intersections faster than cars without even putting in much effort—and all without burning a single drop of gasoline.

"Even if you went out and bought a brand new \$1000 bicycle, you might spend a couple hundred dollars more on soft stuff. Still way cheaper than a car. Especially people coming out of university, they come out with a debt, then what do they do? They feel like they have to buy a car. Again, they get into debt," Kalmanovitch explains.

"EVEN IF YOU WENT OUT AND BOUGHT A BRAND NEW BICYCLE, YOU MIGHT SPEND A COUPLE HUNDRED DOLLARS MORE ON SOFT STUFF. STILL WAY CHEAPER THAN A CAR."

ESPECIALLY PEOPLE COMING OUT OF UNIVERSITY, THEY COME OUT WITH A DEBT, THEN WHAT DO THEY DO?

But being inexpensive can be a mixed blessing. "One of the things with image is, 'Oh, you can't afford a car? Get a job.' I have a job, thank you very much, and I can afford a car—I own a car, but I prefer a bicycle for the majority of my commuting trips," he continues.

I too still own a car, and use it to visit my parents out of town or reach the far-flung corners of the city. There's no reason not to use a vehicle ever. As Kalmanovitch points out, it's a perfectly valid tool. Go on that road trip with your friends, and don't feel guilty for a second. But for daily short-distance needs, leave it parked.

"I love efficiency. It makes sense to me. So inexpensive, so healthy, so enjoyable," Kalmanovitch says.

Inexpensive, healthy, and enjoyable as cycling may be, getting started can seem overwhelming. Most of us have learned how to ride a bike as a child, so the basic skills of balancing and pedaling are there, but getting around a busy city is entirely different from a meandering ride around the park. There are many questions to ask. What route should I take? What kind of bike do I need?

"Any functional bicycle will do; as long as



you can pedal it and the brakes work and it works more or less efficiently, you're off to some kind of start," says Cliff Vallentgoed, owner of Redbike (10918 88 avenue).

Ensuring your bike is up to the task is important, and a mechanic at one of the city's many bike shops can let you know what your ride needs to get it ready. EBCS can also help with service: for a low fee, a volunteer mechanic will help you fix your bike.

If you have a little more to spend, buying new lets you get a bike that's the right size for you, looks the way you want, and is ready to go without any repairs. Strangely, however, not even brand-new bikes come with the minimum equipment required to legally ride.

"The law requires that you have a bell and that if you ride after dusk or before dawn that you have lights affixed to your bike," Vallentgoed explains. "That's not just about the law; having a bell is about sharing multi-use trails with other users, and having lights is about protecting yourself."

**NEW \$1000 BICYCLE, YOU MIGHT SPEND A COUPLE
WAY CHEAPER THAN A CAR.**

**UT OF UNIVERSITY, THEY COME OUT WITH A DEBT,
EY DO? THEY FEEL LIKE THEY HAVE TO BUY A CAR.**

AGAIN, THEY GET INTO DEBT."

"There's so many things that you can get to make the experience more pleasant. Gloves, shoes, pedal systems, a helmet is a fantastic idea—it's not the law for anybody over the age of 16, but it's an awfully good idea," he adds.

Once you've got the basics—a bicycle, helmet, bell, lights, and lock—you're good to go. You can acquire the rest as you need it. In my experience, a good set of fenders will keep your pants clean and dry, a leg strap will keep the chain grease at bay, and a rear rack with panniers (baskets) lets you get groceries and carry other stuff around. But no matter what type of bike you choose to ride or how you choose to trick it out, proper maintenance is critical.

"A well-maintained bicycle is good for safety, it's good for efficiency, and it looks better," Kalmanovitch explains.

To stop safely, both brakes need to be working, and for optimum efficiency, the drivetrain should be clean and well oiled. Also make sure the chain doesn't skip under load—if you're standing on the pedals when this happens, you can wind up on your face.

But just having a bike isn't everything a

budding cyclist needs—you also need to learn how to drive it. Not ride it, but drive it—as in, operate it on the roadway like any other motor vehicle—a skill that even some experienced cyclists lack.

"I think one thing that cyclists often fall into the habit of, they kind of think of themselves as pedestrians that are forced to inhabit a tiny little chunk of road, but what they are is slightly slower motorists without motors," Vallentgoed explains, "they are entitled to space on the road; they are required to ride on the road. Two basic things are to be visible and be predictable."

"If cars know what you're going to do, then they can react accordingly," Vallentgoed says. "I never see cyclists using hand signals, but as dorky as that sounds, it's a really good idea."

"If you're on the road, just go with the flow," Kalmanovitch adds. "Most car drivers have passed a driving test. They understand the rules of the road."

It's these rules that allow all road users—including cyclists—to get around safely and quickly. Being predictable is as simple as following these rules, just as you would when driving a car: don't dart between lanes or parked cars, and follow all traffic signs and laws. Riding to the right is important so as not to unduly slow cars, but leave as much space as you feel necessary to avoid being hit by an opening car door or riding in loose gravel.

"It's up to you as the cyclist to decide where that space is," Kalmanovitch continues. "If you are being crowded, then you need to move more left, not more right. Car drivers respect roadway users because they don't want to hit people; they don't want to be hit."

This fear of collision should be most prevalent at intersections. According to Kalmanovitch, only four per cent of cyclist injuries are caused by collisions from the rear, dispelling a common worry amongst riders.

Being visible is also key. Many road users aren't always on the lookout for smaller vehicles. Bright colours such as yellow are very visible, and there's a reason that lights are mandatory at night.

"Lights are not so much for you to see your path; they're for other people to see you," Kalmanovitch explains. "Reflectors only react to an outside source of light. They're not proactive."

Remembering all of this can make getting started difficult, as any change can be. For the first couple of weeks, your rear end may be a bit sore, or it may be cold and rainy, or you may just not feel like riding on a given day. That's fine. Take a break and try again later.

"Nobody says that you have to do it every day. It's your rules," Kalmanovitch points out. "That's what's so beautiful about our choices in life."



BIKING IS EASY ENOUGH IN THE SUMMER, but Edmonton's frozen half the year, but with a little extra gear, getting around in the cold is easy.

"I find it way more pleasant to go out in the cold, get on my bike, [and] ride to work than warm up the car, get in this claustrophobic box all bundled up in your clothes, [and] drive at half the normal speed in the traffic," Vallentgoed explains. "Sure, it's cold riding your bike, but it's still way more fun than driving or riding the bus."

Just keep riding your bike through the fall, adding clothing as necessary. If your hands are cold, get a good pair of gloves; when the mercury really drops, you'll want a balaclava. A set of studded tires is also great for providing precious traction on icy spots.

Just get what you need to keep yourself warm, and if it's too cold for your liking, take the bus. This winter, I didn't ride when it was colder than -20 C.



CAMPUS IS INFAMOUS FOR BICYCLE THEFT—

at least, that seems to be the general consensus. But according to Stephanie Hartwig, a crime prevention officer with Campus Security, there were only 41 bike thefts reported on campus in all of 2007. Though this number sounds low, there are some things you must do to ensure you aren't one of the unlucky ones.

"You're going to want to get yourself a U-lock [...] they're the hardest, if not impossible, to break with bolt cutters. You want to lock through the frame of the bike and onto the rack, not the tire," Hartwig explained.

Thieves have been known to steal a bike *sans* tire if it's secured incorrectly. And, as they say in real estate, location is everything. Near HUB Mall is especially risky because of the LRT and bus loop, but Hartwig points out that "anywhere there's a rack that's not well lit, that's out of view of the public, tucked away in a corner, is going to be targeted."

If the unthinkable should happen and you find your ride missing, Hartwig has some tips for maximizing your chances of a quick recovery.

"Call us as soon as you can; don't wait a day or week to report it."

She also stressed the importance of keeping on hand a record of the model, serial number, and value of the bike—including accessories and modifications. All of this information will assist Campus Security and Edmonton Police Services in recovering your beloved ride.

Though the threat of theft exists on campus, Hartwig stressed that it wasn't a very high chance.

"It's pretty low," she said. "The number of people that park their bikes—especially in the summer—is tons of people, and if we only have 41 bikes stolen in a year, that's a pretty low percentage of people."

The bottom line: park it somewhere well lit with lots of pedestrian traffic, and use at least one good lock. A U-lock and cable lock are an especially effective combination. The goal isn't to make your bike impossible to steal; a determined thief can steal anything given unlimited time. The point is to make your ride less tempting than others on the rack. As Hartwig explains, the key is "being smart about the type of lock you use and how you lock it."

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SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

The Grassroot Deviation

With *Mad Volcano*
Friday, 4 April at 8pm
The Pawn Shop (10551 Whyte Avenue)

A staple of the Edmonton folk scene, The Grassroot Deviation meld laid-back, bluegrass-tinged rock with the free-flow riffing of jam bands and funk rhythm. The band has played over 100 shows across Canada with such artists as Keller Williams and Wide Mouth Mason. They released their second album, *The Circuit*, in October 2007 and, despite how simple the mistake is, shouldn't be confused with The Grassroot Deviants, who have a perverse obsession with wheat threshing.

U of A Mixed Chorus Spring Concert

With the *U of A Faculty of Education Handbell Ringers*
Saturday, 5 April at 8pm
Winspear Centre

To welcome the joyous time of spring that merrily bursts forth every year like so much confetti, the U of A Mixed Chorus—mixed because it features both ladies and gentlemen—will sing its heart out for the amusement of the audience at the 64th annual spring concert.

Surely the natural sounds of the season, such as sparrows, streams, and prancing through sprawling sun-flooded meadows, will be evoked. Much frolicking and gaiety will be enjoyed by all as the chorus unveils “*Quaecumque Vera*,” the official composition of the 100th anniversary of the University, aided by the whimsical ringers of handbells provided courtesy of the Faculty of Education.

Dr Jane Goodall

A Reason For Hope
Thursday, 10 April at 7pm
Jubilee Auditorium

Renowned throughout the scientific community as one of the foremost experts on primate behaviour, Dr Jane Goodall is a living legend in the field of primatology. Working for decades in the jungles of Africa observing intricate primate social structures and family relations to determine how they interact, this Dame of the British Empire continues to be a committed animal activist, touring an average of 300 days a year to speak about the environmental dangers currently affecting chimpanzee habitat.

As well, Goodall was also instrumental in the groundbreaking discovery that chimps routinely use crude tools ranging from sticks and stone hammers to can openers, typewriters, and a mortar and pestle.

MacHomer

Starring Rick Miller
15–19 April at 8pm, 20 April at 2pm
TransAlta Arts Barn (10330 84 avenue)

Playwright, actor, and musician Rick Miller's internationally recognized one-man act brings together two disparate elements for one of the most creative and hilarious theatre shows you'll find today: Shakespearean tragedies and the jaundiced residents of Springfield.

Providing over 50 voices from *The Simpsons* for this revision of *Macbeth*, Miller is in his twelfth year of touring worldwide with the production. Finally, audiences will witness the shocking conclusion to the classic *Simpsons* episode “Who Stabbed Mr. Burns In Order to Ascend to the Throne only to Become Drunk With Power and Bring About Their Own Violent and Merciless Downfall To Teach Everyone A Valuable Lesson About Morality and the Nature of Man.”

JOHN KMECH
Two years of laffs



The Ruins of a good vacation

Actors Shawn Ashmore and Jena Malone explain why their new movie isn't like other horror flicks—and how the line between onscreen acting and genuine fear began to blur during filming

filmpreview

The Ruins

Opens Friday
Directed by Carter Smith
Written by Scott B Smith
Starring Jonathan Tucker, Shawn Ashmore, Laura Ramsey, and Jena Malone

SIMON YACKULIC
Arts & Entertainment Writer

While he describes “[the] violence and the gore” as the two most effective thrills of *The Ruins*, Shawn Ashmore is quick to point out how he feels the newest addition to his resumé differs from rental shelves full of other blood-and-guts horror flicks.

“A lot of the film takes place in broad daylight, which is kind of an interesting idea and concept for a horror film,” Ashmore says. “It’s amazing because, you know, you can’t hide from anything. All of these things that are happening are [...] under the blaring sun, which almost makes it creepier because you can’t turn away; you can’t hide.”

As opposed to a typical slasher flick or a hero-versus-killer-themed release, *The Ruins* is described by the actors as a film more closely resembling *The Lord of the Flies* or the psychological thriller *Deliverance*. The movie follows the downward spiral of a group of friends who become victims of an evil force in a remote Aztec temple while on vacation in Mexico. And while reluctant to give away anything too concrete about plot twists or the film’s storyline, a few of Ashmore’s fellow actors openly discussed the type of conflict

they felt the characters encountered, as well as their other on-screen encounters.

“There’s a lot of CG; there’s a lot of sex in the film,” Jena Malone, who plays Amy, notes. “Maybe it’s a little bit more of a fantasy tale, but what’s going to surprise audiences is how realistic it truly is and how subtle it is and how humanistic it is. The bad guy, the evil in the film, is human nature.”

“We weren’t eating a lot. We were trying to deprive ourselves of one singular thing to understand the deprivation that the characters were going through. To be perfectly honest, I think I had a breakdown almost on every level—spiritually, emotionally, and creatively.”

JENA MALONE
THE RUINS ACTRESS

On a more personal level, Malone found herself relating to the degree of sadistic attachment that each actor felt to the set and story during filming. According to her, the lines blurred between acting and real life while on location.

“We weren’t eating a lot. We were trying to deprive ourselves of one singular thing to understand the deprivation that the characters were going through. To be perfectly honest, I

think I had a breakdown almost on every level—spiritually, emotionally, and creatively. I crossed that line between asking is this real fear or is this character fear? Is this real pain, or is this character pain? I think I still have bruises and scratches, actually, from the shooting of the film.

“It definitely took a toll on me, and I feel like I actually went through a strange depression or something,” she continues. “I got back in July, and I think it was September until I started actually feeling like myself again.”

That sacrifice paid off in creating what the actors hope will be seen as a blockbuster performance. If it does perform well in critics’ eyes, a lot of credit will go to Scott Smith, who wrote both the screenplay and the original book that the movie is based off of.

Ashmore credits him with the larger than usual scope and depth present in the film, providing the characters with an easily relatable back-story of a vacation in Mexico and for assisting in successfully conveying the group’s degeneration from a band of friends into distressed foes in such a way that typical movie viewers can easily relate.

“These characters go through [this] sort of breakdown or transition from the very beginning in the film, where it’s just these young kids having fun on vacation, to this place of complete fear and survival mode,” he said.

As a bloody and psychological horror film, *The Ruins* has the potential both to provoke thoughts and induce screams. But while those familiar with the book realize that there’s a physical entity that the protagonists struggle against in Mexico, Jena Malone notes that the theme is just as much about the “battle that you fight within as a human.”

THE GATEWAY

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SAM BROOKS

GREEN SPEED MACHINE Spring is here and the bikes are coming out. If you want to make this year the one where you put away the car keys and pick up a U-lock, turn to page 16 for some tips on bike commuting.

Student-developed database connects med students through quiz questions

Plans to expand the popular service to other universities are in the works

CAROLINE LEE
News Staff

With a user base of over 400 members, approximately 900 questions, and over 16 000 responses, QuizMD has become one of the most frequently used resources among the University of Alberta's medical students.

Daniel Kozan, a second-year medical student and the creator of QuizMD, designed the online bank of multiple-choice practice questions to allow students the opportunity to evaluate their level of understanding in various topics while reinforcing their own knowledge by adding their own questions. With the goal of expanding its services to be endorsed by all universities, Kozan hopes to establish the website as an international medical resource.

"I have a liaison, so far, in Australia and the United Kingdom," he explained. "I would really like to see it become the Wikipedia of practice exam questions, but along with that, I want to make it a legitimate medical resource."

Completely run by students, Kozan developed the website based on an

existing exam question bank called Germ Zappers, which is used as a medical learning tool in a first-year infectious disease course. However, he wasn't content with its existing features, as he felt that there were additional features that could be added to benefit medical students.

"I wanted to be able to discuss the question, to have explanations for each one. I wanted to be able to submit my own questions because I find writing material for myself and for others to quiz ourselves is a great way to learn," Kozan explained.

Dr David Rayner, the U of A's associate dean of undergraduate medical education, is among one of several professors who have used QuizMD as a learning resource for the purposes of their course. While Rayner has only logged onto the website once or twice to upload questions, he believes that QuizMD is a great addition to the available learning tools for medical students.

"Some of our students were really thinking outside the box when they put this together," Rayner said. "The obvious benefit is that it gives you

practice questions that you can use as a measure of your learning. The less obvious thing is that writing a good exam question takes considerable depth of knowledge. It's actually quite difficult to write a decent exam question, so if students are putting questions together, then that's real depth learning. It means that they have to know the material pretty well."

While Kozan views the rapidity at which the medical resource is changing as an important advantage, there's concern that some of the user-submitted content may be of subpar quality. To combat this, he has designed a system where peers are able to comment on questions to identify inaccuracies and inconsistencies in content or to praise those that are beneficial and particularly well written. In addition, Kozan has added a voting system where users can acclaim questions they found helpful. Through this peer-evaluation process, students learn how to improve questions and develop a greater grasp on the course content, while allowing for maintenance of high quality material.

PLEASE SEE **MED QUIZ** ♦ PAGE 4

Samuel saga ends with letter of apology

KIRSTEN GORUK
JENNIFER HUYGEN
News Staff

An unprecedented motion to dismiss Students' Union Vice-President (Academic) Bobby Samuel from office was withdrawn from the agenda of Tuesday's Students' Council meeting at the last minute.

"I think it was no surprise that over the course of the campaign and this semester that Council was very upset with the activities that had happened."

MICHAEL JANZ
SU PRESIDENT

The motion, which was brought forward by Business Councillor Scott Nicol, would have seen Samuel removed from his position as VP (Academic) and all related responsibilities. Nicol explained that he

brought up the motion due to a lack of action previously taken by Council to deal with Samuel's election-related misconduct.

"I think it was no surprise that over the course of the campaign and this semester that Council was very upset with the activities that had happened," SU president Michael Janz stated in response to the proceedings. "Council reacted angrily when there were multiple breaches of [the Discipline, Interpretation, and Enforcement] Board and that they felt that Council and the rule of law had been disregarded."

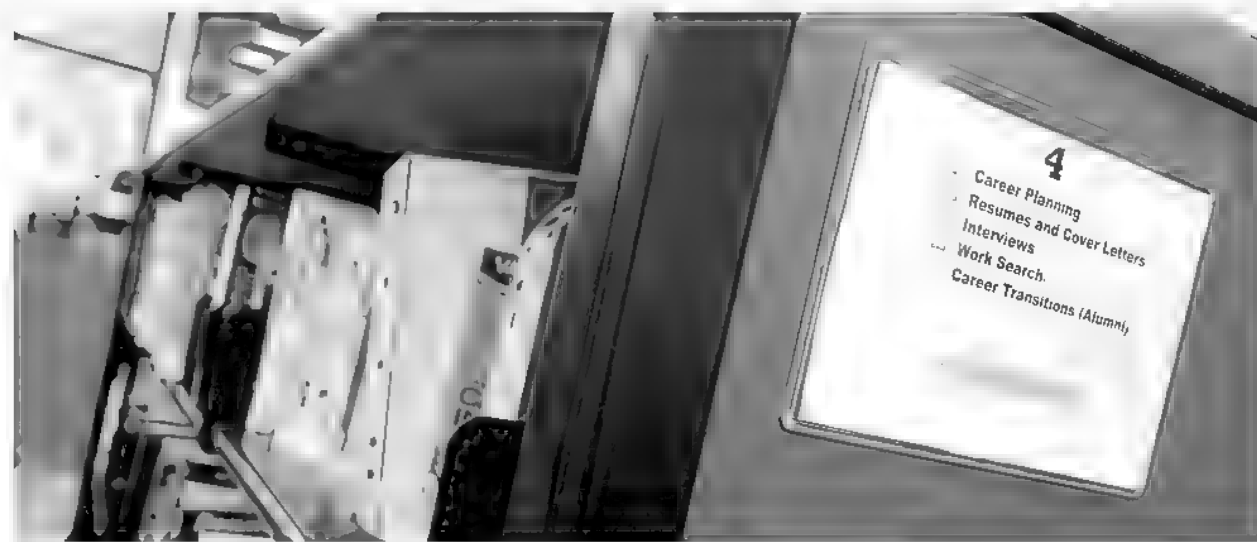
Nicol's decision to make the motion came as a result of actions taken by Samuel and his brother Chris—who served as SU president in 2001/02—during a hearing in front of DIE Board on 4 March.

However, Nicol was quick to withdraw his motion at Tuesday's meeting after an agreement was reached between himself and Samuel that saw the VP (Academic) submit a formal letter of apology to Council detailing his position regarding the actions taken by his brother on his behalf.

PLEASE SEE **SAMUEL** ♦ PAGE 3

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Everybody's working for the weekend

The boom continues in Alberta, and there are jobs to be had left and right. But while students may be able to easily find employment for the summer, some employers are feeling the crunch.

FEATURE, PAGES 13-15

Thanks for all the fish

That's it, the last real Gateway of the year. But fear not, for we'll have a surprise on newsstands next Thursday, and our summer publishing schedule starts on 8 May. Thanks to all our readers and volunteers!

Theatre Art Show lifting curtain on design students' work

theatrepreview

Theatre Art Show

Runs 3-5 April
Timms Centre (Second Playing Space)
Free Admission

EDMON ROTEA
Arts & Entertainment Staff

This week, the backstage action that makes live theatre possible will take to the limelight at this year's student-run Theatre Art Show. The show will showcase the work of both Bachelor and Master of Fine Arts students in the Department of Drama's Theatre Design, Technical Theatre, and Stage Management programs.

The demonstration will be an opportunity for prospective students and curious members of the public to learn more about the technical aspects of theatre production, as well as the wide range of disciplines and degree paths available in the Department of Drama.

"The [theatre design] program is [about] learning the basics of how to design shows. We've done things like designing a room based on a period and place, building a model of that, and designing what it would be like with hypothetical renderings," says Nick Blais, a first-year theatre design student who has constructed a variety of scale models and dioramas of conceptual set designs as part of his coursework.

First-year students in the theatre design program are required to do some hands-on work, from assisting with in-house productions in the



PETE YEE

SHOULDN'T THE WALLPAPER BE IN THE HOUSE? The Theatre Arts Show lets technical design students showcase their work away from scene-stealing actors.

department's Media Room to helping flesh out Studio Theatre's BFA productions.

"They start off working practicum hours—working in the prop shop, wardrobe, or even working on the set for Studio Theatre. They do class projects as well. Once you get to your third or fourth year, you're designing for the Media Room," explains Sheena Haug, a fourth-year theatre design student who graduates this year.

Whether a student is interested in becoming a designer, or intrigued with the behind-the-scenes aspect

of becoming a technician to express their creativity through lighting and handmade props, students in the theatre design program come from a variety of performing and visual arts backgrounds.

"The first year is mostly about getting people from different backgrounds to the same levels and teaching the skills required as a designer for theatre—and working on skills that you may need in theatre and television," Erin Gruber explains. A first-year theatre design student who herself has a performing arts

background, Gruber has spent her practicum hours assisting with lighting for Studio Theatre shows like *While We're Young* and has worked in the prop shop for current productions such as *Twelfth Night*.

The Theatre Art Show will display everything from set renderings, costumes, and hand-built props and furniture to the stage-managers' prompt books with photos of past performances. The show will also feature "show pods," unique displays that show the progression of a production from initial conception to final performance.

The show pods will also include designs for set, lighting, and costumes with a backstage look at a show's creation and set construction. Examples from this year's *The Illusion* and *Stone Cold Dad Serious* will be featured. Students will also be available to discuss their work and answer any questions, which Haug hopes they have.

"We just want to bring people in and explain to them what we do so that the community outside the theatre world has a chance to experience and understand the magic behind the scenes."

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Camaraderie carries *Stoploss*

Phillippe almost manages to lead MTV Films' military movie to total victory

filmreview

Stoploss

Directed by Kimberly Peirce
Starring Ryan Phillippe, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, and Channing Tatum

RAMIN OSTAD
Arts & Entertainment Staff

At first glance, *Stoploss* seems like the next in a growing string of films dedicated to questioning both the Iraq War and the American government's handling of it. After so many bland, heavy-handed flops like *Rendition*, *Redaction*, and *Lions for Lambs*, one begins to wonder why director Kimberly Peirce—whose first movie was the spectacular *Boys Don't Cry*—would dedicate her second outing to a subject with a shoddy record.

The answer is simple: *Stoploss* doesn't really have much to do with Iraq. It doesn't even have a lot to do with its namesake: the "stop-loss" policy which allows for the retention of soldiers in the service beyond

their expected term. Instead, it deals with the human condition, and specifically how fucked up your condition can get when you go to war. Frankly, it should have been called *Shell Shock*.

The story centers on Staff-Sergeant Brandon King (Ryan Phillippe), a young man from a Texas unit recently returned home from a tour in Iraq with his friends Tommy Burgess (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) and Steve Shriver (Channing Tatum). Due to be discharged, King is told that he has been stop-lossed and will be sent back to war in a month. Feeling slighted by the country he risked his life to serve, King goes AWOL and embarks on a road trip across state lines to ask his senator for help.

Of course, war takes its toll on every soldier, and King, Shriver, and Burgess each have their own demons to deal with. The camaraderie between these guys feels genuine, and you really believe that without King, they all begin to fall apart. That said, the acting is good, but not perfect. At first I couldn't decide whether it was terrible, or just terribly Texan. And

though it may sound callous to call the portrayal of shell shock through alcoholism, domestic abuse, and hallucinations clichéd, that doesn't mean it any less true.

Phillippe is the only actor who really takes the ball and runs with it: one scene has him sitting at the edge of a pool, when he suddenly sees his dead squad-mate at the bottom of the pool. He dives in to rescue him, only to surface with a towel in his hand. The terror on his face is palpable, and you really sympathize with him.

Stoploss takes a few risks, for better or worse. What separates this film from anti-Iraq-War films before it is that it has balls. It's rare to hear the phrase "Fuck the president!" come seething out of the protagonist's mouth, and even rarer that they mean it.

But sometimes the film's attempt to grow a pair just isn't enough. The end falls a little flat—not enough to kill the whole movie, but enough to question what the point of it all really was. Where Peirce succeeds is in showing how war can bring one group of people so close together and simultaneously tear them apart from everyone else.

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Tele visionaries combine rock, electronica for big, beefy sound

musicpreview

Tele

With The Imports and The Ways
Thursday, 3 April at 8pm
Starlite Room

SIMON YACKULIC
Arts & Entertainment Writer

With songs ranging in style from the rough and raw fist-pounding distortion of “Notice” to tunes such as “Monster” that have openings reminiscent of a classical sonnet, pinning down a good descriptor for Tele’s musical stylings seems a little troubling. Even the band tends not to talk about it much.

“If we’re doing a big song, we really make it quite big, and if we’re doing a more sparse song, then we try to play that up.”

ZACK ANTEL
TELE KEYBOARDIST

“We sometimes describe it, in a general way, as extreme,” explains keyboardist Zack Antel, speaking from Grande Prairie, where he, vocalist/guitarist Matt Worobec, bassist Brendan Berg, and drummer Derek Allard had just pulled in during their Canada-wide tour. “If we’re doing a big song, we really make it quite big, and if we’re doing a more sparse song, then we try to play that up.”

As Antel acknowledges, both their classic rock lineup and keyboard-driven pop-rock tracks evoke comparisons to other bands. To him,

“any of the British bands or electronic [musicians]” are considered to be major influences on the band as a whole, and each individual band member has their own personal taste in tunes that affects the musical output: Worobec listens to singer-songwriter pieces to boost his creative edge, while Antel notes his own preference for symphonic material. The net result is the unique sound coming from this Winnipeg-based four piece.

Creative sound engineering also plays a part in the strong sound that Tele creates. To create a keyboard sound that many a casual listener would swear is a distorted guitar, the inventive musicians ran keyboards through guitar amps with guitar effects and distortion, creating a sound described by Antel as “beefy yet also cut.” While this has been done before by other bands, it fits in perfectly with Tele’s existing sound and creates stronger riffs than a normal keyboard could achieve.

“I love that dirty, fat synth sound, like the band Holy Fuck or Justice—that really thick sound,” Antel explains.

Tele is currently independent of any label, despite having received the praise of *Chart* magazine, where they were touted as “one of Canada’s top breakout bands of 2007.” While recognizing the advantages a label could bring the band in terms of promotiown and advertising, Antel finds the current arrangement is working really well for the band. Being accountable to only themselves, they remain “in complete control of [their] own destiny” and able to distribute their music extensively over the Internet. The band also looks forward to their return to the stage in Edmonton, where they’ve found success before.

“We had a blast [the last time we were in Edmonton],” Antel mentions. “The crowd was really energetic and really into it. We’re just hoping to repeat that and just put on a really high energy, high emotion rock show.”

PLEASE SEE **CDREVIEW** • PAGE 23

Spacey deals ace, stays on 21

The veteran actor’s presence helps boost up an imperfect script

filmreview

21

Directed by Robert Luketic

Starring Jim Sturgess, Kevin Spacey, and Kate Bosworth

CAROLINE GAULT
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Considering director Robert Luketic’s new film *21* is based on a true story about six genius MIT students taking Vegas for millions, it’s managed to pay off well: it spent last weekend topping the box office and, despite a few misplaced bets, deserves its substantial payoff.

Ben Campbell (Jim Sturgess), a socially awkward 21-year-old student on the verge of graduating, is in dire need of some excitement—and \$300 000 tuition for Harvard Medical School.

Luketic does an excellent job at capturing the intensity of the crazy Vegas nightlife and the palm-sweating, high-stakes risk of gambling and beating a system that the casino doesn’t want you to beat.

Regularly, he relies on two nerdy best friends, one of whom (Josh Gad) is an overweight guy with curly hair and glasses and provides comic relief through his eating habits and obsessive comments concerning the “it” girl, Jill Taylor (Kate Bosworth). Gad’s “best friend” role is a weak attempt at re-creating Seth from *Superbad*, yet there are funny moments worth the effort.

Due to his limited social circle, Ben jumps at the

opportunity to live large in Vegas and make some fast cash in card counting. This isn’t without persuasion from the sexy, hard-to-get Jill, who’s nice to look at, but lacks depth, save for a few empty references to her absentee gambling father.

Kevin Spacey plays Mickey Rosa, a crooked professor at MIT and the leader of the “team” that uses math and memory to beat blackjack. The film wouldn’t reach the level it does without Spacey, who’s successful in gaining the trust of both the players and the audience because of his experience. His manipulative character is intimidating, but the only flaws are in his past: it’s never fully explained why he quit card counting in the first place.

Thankfully, it’s not necessary to understand math or “the count” to enjoy the film. Luketic does an excellent job at capturing the intensity of the crazy Vegas nightlife and the palm-sweating, high-stakes risk of gambling and beating a system that the casino doesn’t want you to beat. This fast-paced film will inspire you to dig up the funds for a trip to party in Vegas.

21 grasps for the common theme of finding one’s identity, as Ben becomes two different people depending on his geographical location. During the week, he’s a hard working, middle-class college kid, but in Vegas, he’s a high-rolling gambler dressed in the finest suits and wanted by all the ladies.

Sturgess pulls off the cocky side well, evoking the aura of Liam Gallagher from Oasis. He also achieves the softer, under-confident side of his character, allowing the audience secondary embarrassment on several occasions.

At this point, it’s hard not to inquire why Hollywood cast a Caucasian actor to play the protagonist, when the real-life Ben, Jeff Ma, is actually Asian-American. This choice holds over to the roles of Mickey Rosa and Steve Fisher (another teammate) as well. But politics aside, there’s no denying that *21* makes you want to hop the next plane to Vegas because there, “you can become anyone you want.”

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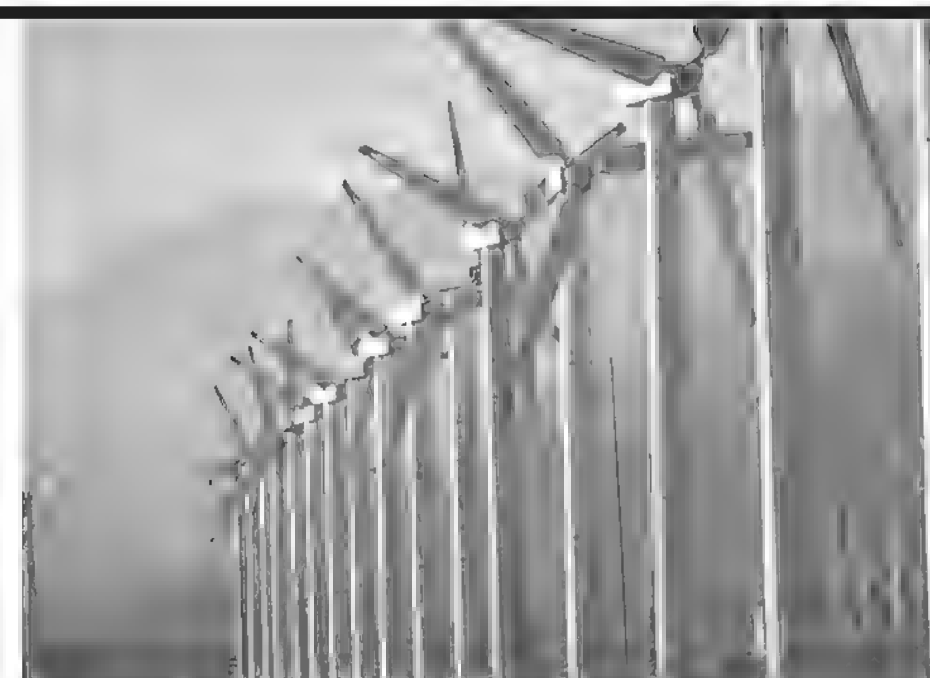
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featured album

B-52's
Funplex
EMI

KELSEY TANASIUK
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Now that the members of the B-52's are actually 52, it's prime time for a comeback.

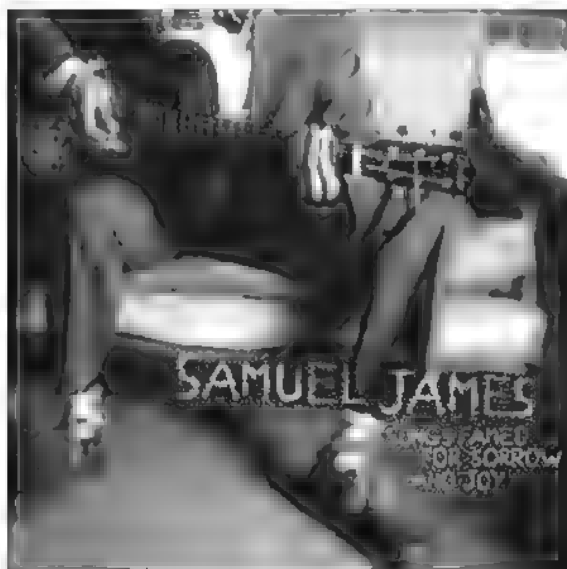
Despite the fact that the aging band's has been touring constantly, it's been 16 years since they put out a new album. Skeptics need not worry though, as despite a slightly updated sound, *Funplex* shows they're the same B-52's you remember. Even the ladies' good looks and beehives are still intact (though they do look pretty strained).

Songs like "Hot Corner" and the title track are infectious—uncontrollable boogying is an inevitability. The whole record through, the B-52's prove again and again that they still have what it takes to create dance party favourites. Their new sound is a bit more electronic than you (and your parents) may remember, but the essence of these new wave rockers remains the same.

Their lyrics are neither profound nor thought-provoking, but they're certainly fun. The cheeky attitude that carried the B-52's through their *Love Shack* era remains strong today, with lines like, "Private property hippie be quiet / Your peace sign T-shirt / Could cause a riot" and "I'm your daytime waitress / At the Taco Tiki Hut / I'm your daytime waitress / Here's your stupid 7-Up"—though it's doubtful that either of the B-52's girls are still waitressing at taco joints.

Funplex is a great addition to any dance party and a solid new record for their discography. So grab a pair of go-go boots, invite your friends, and head out to a little old place where we can get together.

Listen to tracks from *Funplex* on the Editor's Playlist at www.thegatewayonline.ca



album review

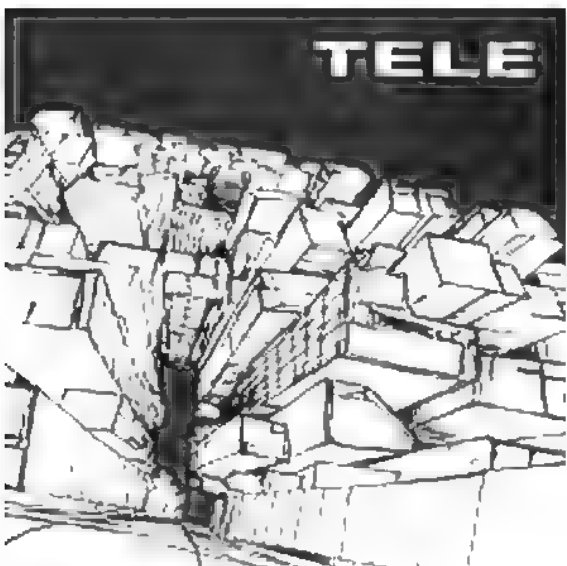
Samuel James
Songs Famed for Sorrow and Joy
NorthernBlues Music

KATHLEEN BELL
Arts & Entertainment Staff

It's refreshingly simple: perhaps in the age of super producers, musical collectives, and computer generated sound, we've forgotten just how much music a man and his guitar can make. Samuel James hasn't.

James is a old-school bluesman. With percussion left entirely to James' tapping foot, *Songs Famed for Sorrow and Joy* is a tribute to a time when there were no albums, only sparse lyrics accompanied by sparse guitars. But no matter how scant the instrumentation, it never precludes a talented artist from getting the most out of what is there. In this case, what's there is James' rich, gruff voice that rumbles when it creeps through the lower range and cries as it races through its top range. Keeping those wandering vocals company is some tricky guitar picking, which gently dances for numbers like "Love & Mumbly-Peg" and screeches through the corners of tracks like "Sleepy Girl Blues."

James' focus is on storytelling and, not surprisingly for a blues album, most of the songs centre around some kind of woman troubles, explicated and mourned in a call-and-response structure. Nina in "The 'Here Comes Nina' Ragtime-Surprise" seems particularly strict when it comes to chores; as James explains, "Here comes Nina counting to ten / Looks like I forgot to do those dishes again / Here comes Nina with a pick and a spade / Talkin' 'bout 'if you don't do those dishes I'm goin' out to dig your grave.'" He doesn't seem to fare any better with "One-Eyed Katie," who "Is all woman, but not one bit lady / Just one eye is all she had/ She don't see so good, but she don't look so bad." It's characters like Nina and Katie that give *Songs Famed for Sorrow and Joy* its charm and originality, so if you want to know what happens to Ol' Willie Chan, give it a listen, and Samuel James will tell you.



album review

Tele
Tele
Independent

MARIA KOTOVYCH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Any band that names two of their songs "..." and "... ." is certainly attention-grabbing. Given that Tele's self-titled album also features some intriguing cover art, there's hope that a great musical gift might lie inside. Unfortunately, that's not what actually happens once the album starts to play.

"Hello, Hello" begins the album on a positive note, throwing a slightly Nirvana-esque grunginess to the epic metal piece. Not bad, not bad. But then "Notice" starts to play. With "Notice" also comes the album's biggest downfall: the high notes.

Falsettos and high notes are tricky for many male singers. When done right, the "guy singing high" thing can be quite impressive. Done poorly, it'll likely hurt listeners' ears. Tele certainly tries reaching for those high notes; however, they're always just a tad out of grasp for the young group.

Besides "Notice," a few more songs on this album also feature the lead singer's painful

renditions of a manly high note. "Choose," for example, starts off with a pretty melody, but then occasionally, the singer will reach waaay up there with his vocal chords while letting out some of the words—why ruin an otherwise pretty melody? Why? "Try Again" and "Shame" continue this trend, trying to hit the high notes with very little success.

While many of the tracks on this sound the same, each epic piece not distinguishing itself much from the other, one song on *Tele* diverts completely from this style. "... ." is a soothing lullaby-style instrumental piece that begins with the keyboardist playing the repeating chords while layers of guitar and percussion swirl around them, building up to a musical climax that leads directly into the next song. "... ." is a clever and interesting tune.

Tele is certainly not horrible, but with the exception of "... ." very few pieces truly stand out in this album.

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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA



FILE PHOTOS (LEFT TO RIGHT): MIKE OTTO, LAUREN STIEGLITZ, PETE YEE

THE WINNERS' CIRCLE Success came in many guises in CIS this year. The Bears won the volleyball championship, Calgary's men were golden, and the Manitoba women's hockey team picked up bronze.

Alberta drops to fourth in Gateway Sports Awards

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

Canada's university athletes have hung up their skates and rinsed out their spandex for the last time this season, and it's time to take stock of how well everyone did. Once again, we've done all the math for you, calculating how all the CIS schools stacked up against each other this year based on performance at nationals. There was a lot of movement in the top ten this year, as four brand new teams jumped in.

10. SFU (49 POINTS)
Unranked last year



The Clan sneak into the top ten this year almost entirely on the strength of their wrestling program. Though a few other teams picked up some points, it was SFU's grapplers that really went the distance. The men's team came in second at nationals, and the women did them one better by winning gold. There was also plenty of individual recognition for the teams, as Miranda Dick and Dustyn Fisher were chosen as Outstanding Female and Male Wrestlers respectively. Mike Jones picked up Coach of the Year honours for his role in taking them that far.

9. MANITOBA (51.5 POINTS)
Ranked tenth last year



It was close, but the Manitoba Bisons managed to advance one rung up the ladder of the Gateway rankings this year, thanks mostly to their football team. They upgraded from Canada West runners-up last year to Vanier Cup victors this fall, blitzing the St Mary's Huskies 28-14. On top of that success, Manitoba added a bronze-medal finish in women's hockey in Ottawa, a silver medal in women's curling, and a Rookie of the Year award for Samantha Loewen in women's volleyball. With Saskatchewan out of the top ten, the Bisons did the Great Plains division proud.

8. BROCK (53 POINTS)
Unranked last year



Brock's men's basketball team surprised the country this year by

capturing the national title, beating the Acadia Axemen, the Raven-killers, 64-61 in the final. It was one of two national championship wins for the Badgers this year—their men's wrestling squad proved to be the best at nationals as well—but it was enough to send them into the top ten. Brock's female wrestlers were talented this year as well, taking home bronze and earning a Coach of the Year nod for Marty Calder. As well, their men's hockey team came in sixth place at nationals—Murray Nystrom was named Coach of the Year.

7. LAURIER (56 POINTS)
Unranked last year



Unlike the Pandas hockey team, we at the Gateway have no grudge against the Wilfred Laurier Golden Hawks, and are happy to welcome them to the top ten. Laurier showed its talons on the ice in particular this year, demonstrating why they're a consistent contender for the women's hockey title this year. They played in the final and took silver in a 2-0 loss to McGill, and swept the curling championships too. They racked up significant points from individual awards as well. For instance, men's hockey Rookie of the Year honours went to Craig Voakes, while Kale Harrison earned that prize in men's basketball.

6. LAVAL (74 POINTS)
Ranked third last year



After spending one glorious year in third place, the Rouge et Or are back to their familiar stomping grounds in sixth. They're once again the only Quebec team in the top ten. In the fall, they picked up silver in men's soccer, though their women were only able to reach fifth in that sport, but it was their performance at nationals in the spring that put them on this list. Laval picked up big points in basketball, with their men and women placing fifth and fourth respectively. In the pool, both teams placed third, and the men proved their volleyball strength again, finishing in fifth at that championship. Add a few individual awards, like Karl De Grandpré's Rookie of the Year award in volleyball and Francine Brousseau's

soccer Player of the Year prize, and Laval are a first-rate representative of CIS's francophone competitors.

5. WESTERN (79.5 POINTS)
Ranked eighth last year



Another school that saw big movement in the rankings this year, the Western Ontario Mustangs galloped their way to fifth without taking home a single national banner and grabbing only three medals. They did it by making it to no fewer than nine championships, with a healthy number of individual awards thrown in. The Mustangs' highest placements this year were in rugby and women's track—both teams took home silver, and Rachel Spearing was named Rookie of the Year in rugby. The men came in fourth at the track and field championship, and jumper Andrew Judge was named Male Field Athlete of the Year, while sprinter Randy McAuley won the student-athlete community service award. The Mustangs picked up bronze in men's soccer, and the women's and men's cross-country teams came in ninth and fifth respectively. Western's field hockey coach Brenyn Hodge got the nod as Coach of the Year.

4. ALBERTA (91 POINTS)
Ranked first last year



For the first time in the storied two-year history of these rankings, Alberta's dropped from first place. In fourth place after Calgary this year, the Green and Gold suffered from the loss of some of last year's best athletes. While the U of A captured national banners in men's hockey and volleyball—last year the U of A picked up three golds—none of Alberta's other teams even managed to make it to the podium this year, even though eleven teams sent representatives to national championships. The Pandas hockey and volleyball teams, both defending champions, were relegated to fourth place this year, while the defending silver-medallist Pandas basketball team finished last at the Canada West Final Four and didn't even earn a berth at nationals. In the fall, not a single team advanced to nationals.

3. CALGARY (92 POINTS)
Ranked second last year



Another good all-around school, Calgary dropped one position this year and is down to third place. What's most impressive is that they're as high as they are despite picking up only a single national championship. Their men's swim team was the main attraction this year, making a splash by ending UBC's decade-long grip on the men's title. Their women's cross-country and wrestling teams each collected silver medals, while the men finished in fourth place in both sports. Calgary's women were in fourth place at that event, and the Dinos also earned a few points from sprinter Sam Effah's Athlete of the Year award. The only real disappointment for Calgary this year was their men's basketball team's failure to make it to nationals. Though it might pain Edmontonians to see Calgary succeed—and to be higher than the U of A in the rankings—the Dinos certainly earned it this year.

2. UBC (95.5 POINTS)
Ranked fourth last year



After a year in fourth place, the Thunderbirds have regained their position as national runners-up, something that will certainly please the people that are putting together UBC's bid for membership in NCAA Division II. The T-Birds were just raking in the banners this year, taking national gold in women's swimming—hardly a surprise, considering they have Annamay Pierse, who's already qualified for Beijing, on their team—as well as men's soccer and women's basketball and volleyball. They had four national

championships last year as well—men's soccer, both swim teams, and field hockey—but this year UBC collected a couple of other pieces of hardware: their women's soccer team took home bronze, while their men picked up silver medals in the pool—not to mention that two of the gold medals they earned were in the higher-profile sports. Add that to the fact that their men's basketball team came in sixth, their defending-champion field hockey team came fourth, and Blair Bann was CIS Libero of the Year, and it's clear that UBC is one of the most well-rounded schools in CIS.

1. GUELPH (99 POINTS)
Unranked last year



Like the mythical beasts from which they take their name, the Gryphons soared straight to the top of the rankings this year, mauling their competition and proving that you don't need to be the best at the big-name sports to rake in the points. Previously unranked, Guelph made it to the top on the strength of their track and cross-country athletes' gold-medal performances, with a big boost from individual award-winners as well. Both the men's and women's track teams took home banners, as did both cross-country teams. Long-distance runner Lindsay Carson won Rookie of the Year honours in both track and cross-country. She was also named cross-country Athlete of the Year, and her coach Dave Scott-Thomas got the nod for Coach of the Year as well. The Gryphons picked up another banner in the fall, defeating Toronto to take home field hockey gold. Guelph also picked up points from wrestling and women's rugby.

HOW'D THEY DO THAT?

For our third annual CIS schools ranking, we used the same formula as last year. Points were given based on schools' performance at nationals only. A first-place finish earned a school ten points, second place meant nine points, and so on. Individual awards were also worth points—a performance-based prize like Coach of the Year or Rookie of the Year was worth five, while community service and student-athlete awards were worth three. In the seven sports with televised finals—women's and men's hockey, women's and men's basketball, men's and women's volleyball, and football—the point value was multiplied by 1.5. Simple!



FILE PHOTO: TARA STIEGLITZ

MOVIN' ON UP Golden Bears captain defenceman Harlan Anderson (R) gets ready to pass the puck earlier in the season. He's wearing a new jersey now, having signed with the Springfield Falcons of the AHL on an amateur try-out contract.

Canada West MVP Anderson signed to Oilers' AHL farm team

Captain of championship team playing with Springfield Falcons as a try-out

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

It seems that the sky's the limit for Harlan Anderson's hockey success lately. Hot on the heels of the Alberta defender's trip to the national championship, where the Bears won and he was named both an all-Canadian and tournament all-star, Anderson has joined the Springfield Falcons, AHL affiliate of the Edmonton Oilers, on an amateur try-out contract.

Anderson, who played his fifth year with the Bears this season, travelled to Massachusetts almost immediately after Alberta claimed the University Cup, and is now playing for the Falcons.

"It's great. It was exciting to win the national championship again; it was fun to be able to do that with the guys on the team this year," Anderson said of his recent run of success. "As far as the tryout goes, I'm taking it as a good opportunity to show off my skills and hopefully earn myself a job somewhere next year."

Instead of going through a traditional tryout process, Anderson joined the Falcons' roster right away. Not only has he practiced with the team, he's played two games for them already; they'll evaluate him in action and then choose whether or not to sign him to a proper contract.

"They call it a tryout, but basically, it's just a way for guys to come down and play for the team," Anderson said. "So far, I've played two games for Springfield, and I've been practicing with them, so it's been great. The level of play is pretty high, and it's been a lot of fun."

"[With] a lot of universities and colleges in the States and Canada, once their season's done, their players can

go to different teams if they want and if they're picked up," Falcons head coach Kelly Buchberger explained. "That's exactly what happened to Harlan after [Alberta] had won."

"There's no question that he played well for the U of A, and he's got a great hockey sense, and he's got a lot of leadership."

KELLY BUCHBERGER
SPRINGFIELD FALCONS HEAD COACH

According to Buchberger, the Falcons are already benefiting from the addition of Anderson to the team.

"There's no question that he played well for the U of A, and he's got a great hockey sense, and he's got a lot of leadership. That's the one thing we were lacking a little bit, and he's added it, for sure," he said. "He's a right-handed shot, and he plays well on the power play, and that's one thing we were lacking—offensive defencemen—and he's really come in and added what we were missing."

"We're fighting to make the playoffs right now—we're five points out right now with seven games left. We believe that we can make the playoffs, and Harlan's going to give us that extra boost hopefully that we need."

Anderson, who was Canada West MVP this year, was the league's highest-scoring defenseman—he had 44 points in 36 games this season, counting exhibition and playoffs.

"When you get a defenceman who's got a point a game or a goal a game

and is your Canada West MVP and the captain of the championship team, he's going to get some recognition," Bears head coach Eric Thurston said. "He's got the size, he has the ability to see the ice very well, and he also has the ability to quarterback the power play. I'm sure the Oilers know that those guys aren't easy to find."

So far, Anderson feels that he's adjusting well to the different team and league in Springfield.

"In these first two games, I've played quite a bit—I've played more than I thought I was going to in the first two games—and I felt pretty good out there," he said. "I'm definitely learning things as I go. Obviously they don't do everything the same way that our team does, so I've sort of had to learn how to play with the different systems as I've gone. The coaching here's good, and they've been trying to help me out and help me adjust to the level."

Fortunately, he's getting along well with his new teammates as well.

"There's a lot of good guys," Anderson said. "They're all Oilers draft picks and guys that have signed with the Oilers, so a lot of them are guys who've played against us in that Oilers Rookie game. They're really friendly guys, and just like anybody else, they want to win. They're all here for the same reason."

The Falcons are still far from deciding whether they'll keep Anderson on the roster past the end of this season, but he's optimistic.

"As far as earning a contract for next year goes, I think my chances are pretty good. I think I've shown that I can play at this level in those first two games, and hopefully, I can improve along the way in the next seven games."

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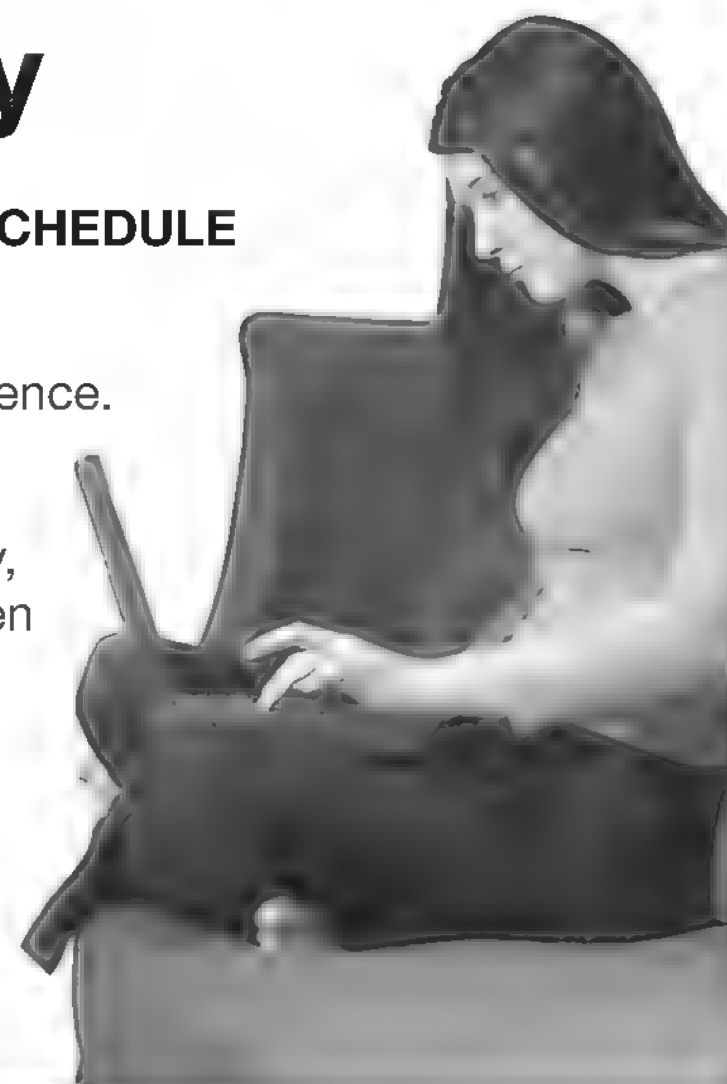
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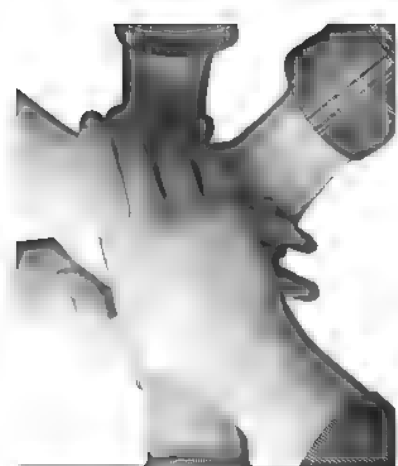
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The Gateway looks into the future, sees NHL winners

SPORTS
STAFFGroup
Commentary

The U of A's teams have all finished their seasons—some more successfully than others—but there's still plenty of fun to be had in the world of sports. For instance, may I direct your attention to a little organization called the "National Hockey League"—have you heard of it? Apparently, their playoffs are about to begin, and the best teams will compete for a quaint little trophy called the Stanley Cup—fascinating stuff. Anyway, we've been following the league all season long, and are ready to make uneducated guesses and fearless guarantees about this year's post-season.

Nick Frost

I'm not normally one to make predictions based on patterns formed in previous years, but it seems as though the recent trend in the Stanley Cup finals is

to have a Canadian team duking it out against an opponent from the division polar-opposite to them. The Calgary Flames—reppin' Northwest—battled against the Tampa Bay Lightning—reppin' Southeast—and lost in seven games in 2004; post-lockout, the Edmonton Oilers fought and were defeated in a similar divisional matchup to the Carolina Hurricanes in 2006. Last year, the Ottawa Senators were shown the exit in five games by the Anaheim Ducks.

Since those teams have all had their opportunity, it's only fitting that one of the other three gets their turn this year. So, who do we have left? Well, Vancouver technically has a chance, but it's more likely that Roberto Luongo will die of exhaustion and Alain Vigneault will be arrested for playing him beyond the parameters of BC's labour laws. And, of course, there's the Toronto Maple Leafs. Insert your own joke here.

The Montreal Canadiens, on the other hand, seem poised to make a serious run: they're the Northeast Division champions and battling for first-place in the Eastern Conference, they've got the number-one power-play in the league, and Carey Price

has been playing absolutely unreal since his safety net (Cristobal Huet) was dealt to Washington. Not to mention that *les Habitants* have history on their side, as they've won the most Stanley Cups (24) of any team. Most importantly, though, Montreal fits the pattern—they're a Canadian franchise and the second team from the East, to go along with the two from the West.

So mark your calendars—the Habs will lose to the Pacific Division's San Jose Sharks in five games.

Mike Kendrick

There's simply no question how this year's Stanley Cup Final will turn out. Throw your statistics and Vegas odds out the window—all you have to do is look at the history of the Cup in the past few years.

In the 2002 final round, the Detroit Red Wings beat out the Carolina Hurricanes to take the Cup. However, the 'Canes came back in the first year after the NHL lockout to take the prize. In 2003, Anaheim fought a gruelling match against New Jersey, and after the Devils won in game seven, the Ducks came back last year and capitalized on their second chance at the glory. Then,

in 2004, the Lightning took the Flames all the way down to Florida to strip them of the hardware in a seven-game showdown.

Are you seeing a pattern yet?

The Northwest has been one of the most competitive divisions in the league this year. Having run the gauntlet with a new coach and some fresh faces, Calgary's ready to take all the marbles. The years-long trend will end with them after they take home the Cup, however, because I sure as hell don't see the Oilers pulling it off next year. [Full disclosure: Mike Kendrick has a raging Flames boner, being from southern Alberta—Ed.]

Matt Pretty

With the NHL playoffs coming down to the wire, it's awfully tough to do decent predictions when most of the matchups and seeds aren't set yet. That being said, here's a few of my opinions on this year's playoff picture.

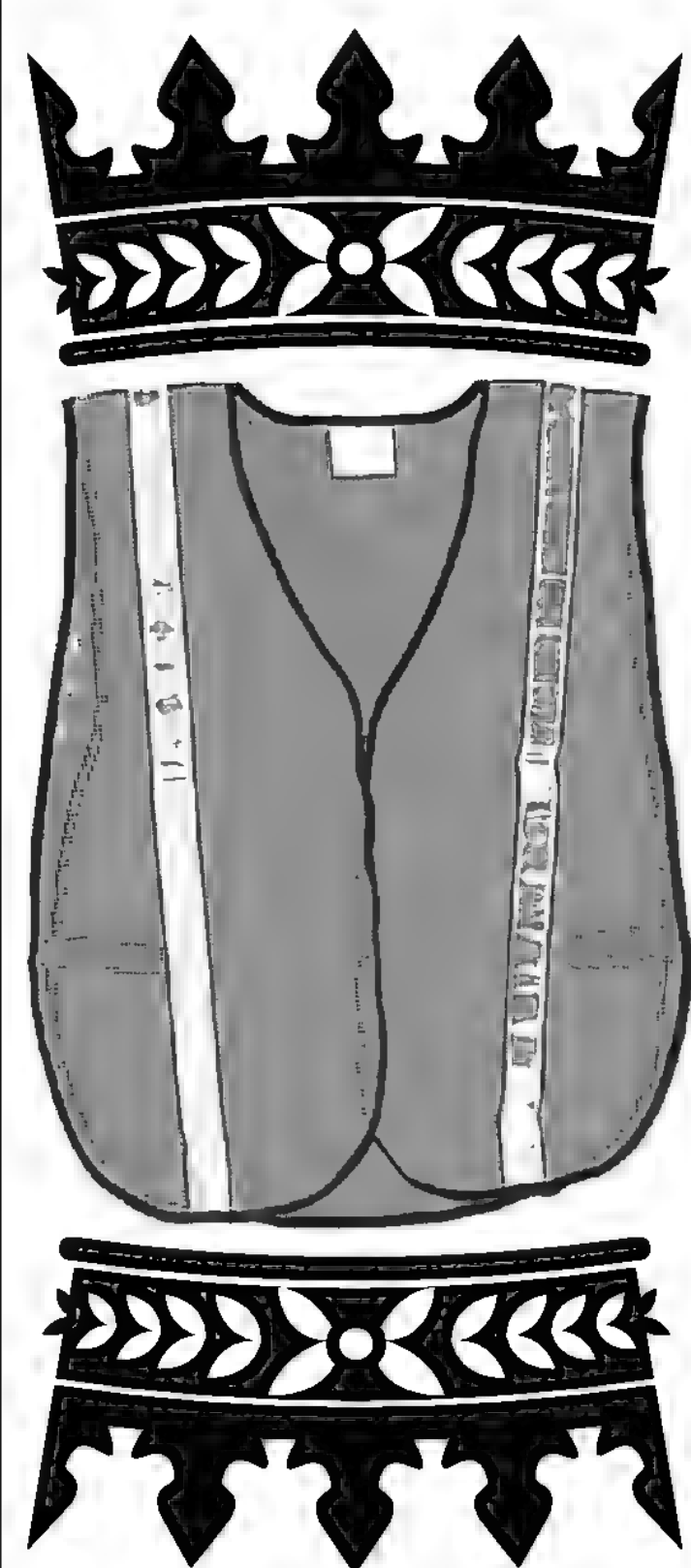
In the West, I think Vancouver will drop out. They've lost five of their last six, and they play the Oilers and Flames to finish up—much tougher opponents than Nashville's remaining two against the Blues and Blackhawks.

In the East, only one team from the Southeast Division is going to make it in, and I think it will be the Washington Capitals. Though Carolina holds the tiebreaker, the 'Canes are colder, losing three of their last four, and the Caps have won their last five. Plus, Carolina is advertising playoff tickets for sale when they haven't clinched a spot yet—one of the worst playoff jinxes out there.

The series I'd most like to see is Pittsburgh against Washington: Crosby and Malkin versus Ovechkin and Backstrom. The amount of offensive talent on one sheet of ice in that one would be unbelievable.

As for upsets, I think Detroit is going to fall in the first two rounds. Just a hunch. I could see Nashville giving them an early exit, or Anaheim or Dallas if they meet in the conference semis. The Wings haven't had the best record as favourites lately, and I think they're going keep that tradition alive.

If it were up to me, Montreal would win it all, but they'll be hurting. So I'll go with Pittsburgh because the chemistry on that team seems to be unstoppable. As long as they stay healthy, I think they have as good a shot as, or better than, any team out there.



Over the centuries, various sports have earned themselves the nickname "the Sport of Kings," including hunting, horse racing, falconry, ten-pin bowling, surfing and actual war. For the record, the real sport of kings is competitive vest-wearing.

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SPORTS**

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Alberta



FILE PHOTO: MIKE OTTO

HANDS IN THE AIR Daryll Roper (1) and Alexa Berton (8) will be trying out for Team Canada in May.

Volleyballers invited to Team Canada tryouts

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

Four volleyball players from the U of A and nine Alberta alumni have been invited to try out for the men's and women's senior national indoor teams.

From the Pandas, outside hitter Jocelyn Blair, setter Daryll Roper, and middle Alexa Berton have been asked to try out for Team Canada in May. Three Pandas alumni—setters Tiffany Dodds and Larissa Cundy, along with middle Tasha Holness—have also been extended invitations.

From the national-champion Bears team, middle blocker Adam Kaminski will join five former U of A players—setter Brock Davidiuk, left sides Pascal Cardinal and Nicholas Cundy, and right sides Dallas Soonias and Alexandre Gaumont Casias—for tryouts in Winnipeg.

All of the current Alberta athletes selected already have some national-team experience. Kaminski was on the national Junior 'B' team last season. Blair and Roper were both on the senior women's team last year, while Berton has played with the junior women's team.

"These three are obviously the strongest that we've had in a long, long time," said senior women's team assistant coach Mike Ling of the trio of Pandas players trying out this year. Ling also serves as assistant coach for the Pandas.

"All three have had experience at the national team level [...] and have progressed as they've come up through high school and university. They've just emerged as very skilled, strong athletes, and have displayed qualities that will make them move to the next level, the international level."

"Making the invited list for a national team isn't because of a flash-in-the-pan kind of

reputation," Pandas head coach Laurie Eisler agreed. "You have to have built something over time to show that you can be competitive at the international level. I think what these three have shown is that over time they have developed, and they continue to develop so they can [be] international-style players."

Blair was the Pandas' powerhouse hitter this year, making 3.87 kills per game with a .247 attack percentage. Roper made 10.03 assists per game organizing the Pandas' offence. Berton had a team-high .329 attack percentage with 1.91 kills per game.

Adam Kaminski had a .429 attack efficiency this season, with eleven service aces.

"[Kaminski] has progressed rapidly in the years that he's been here, and I think that he's ready to make that kind of next jump," Bears head coach Terry Danyluk said. "He's one of those guys who was a late bloomer in volleyball. He came to us with no elite training, and as an athlete, he's still learning things and he's still progressing, which I think is very unusual for guys in their fifth year."

"I think he's going to have a really long career on the national team, as long as he takes the next step the right way. He's really got to focus on his physical [play] and becoming more aggressive. As a university athlete, he was gifted because of his height and his natural athletic ability. Now he's got to learn to work just a little bit harder."

Both the men's and women's tryouts will take place in May at the University of Manitoba. Since neither qualified for the Beijing Olympics, the main competition that the Canadian teams will be working towards this summer season will be the Pan Am Cup, which begins in late May.

our city's major professional sports franchises—oh, and let's not forget our own beloved Editor-in-Chimp Adam Gaumont. Hopefully this time, though, he'll represent us with a few less punches and a few more goals. Or maybe, at least, some decent skating. Baby steps, Adam.

The game begins at 7pm on Wednesday, 9 April. Admission to this mismatch is a donation at the door, with proceeds going towards funding at the Cross Cancer Institute. In particular, they're aiming to help aspiring ringette player Brittany Taylor. She recently lost her leg in a battle with cancer.

SPORTS SHORTS

By Nick Frost

Bring in the ringer!

Cheers and good spirit will ring out through Clare Drake Arena next week, as the U of A Ringette team participates in their annual charity tilt against a team of well-known Edmontonians. Some of the personalities involved include members of CTV, Global, CityTV and Team 1260, as well as

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It's your turn to let us know what you think about The Gateway. Is it a twice-weekly tradition or blasphemous birdcage liner? Right-wing propaganda or liberal conspiracy?

Complete this survey and hand it in at the Gateway office in 3-04 SUB, or at InfoLink Information Booths in SUB, CAB, HUB, or ETLIC by 3pm on Friday, 4 April, 2008 and you could win prizes!

How often do you read the Gateway?

- ☐ Rarely ☐ Monthly
☐ Weekly ☐ Twice weekly

How often do you read the Gateway Online?

- ☐ Rarely ☐ Monthly
☐ Weekly ☐ Twice weekly

The Gateway publishes:

- ☐ Too many issues ☐ Not enough issues ☐ Just enough issues

The Gateway's issues are:

- ☐ Too big ☐ Too small ☐ Just right

The Gateway's ad-to-content ratio is:

- ☐ Too high (too many ads) ☐ Too low (could stand for more ads)
☐ Just the right balance

With 1 being your favourite, rank the sections of the Gateway from 1 - 6:

- __ News __ Opinion
__ Sports __ Arts & Entertainment
__ Comics __ Features

On average, how long do you spend reading each section of the Gateway (in minutes)?

- __ News __ Opinion
__ Sports __ Arts & Entertainment
__ Comics __ Features

What type of Gateway news articles do you read most?

- ☐ Campus news ☐ Local news ☐ National news
☐ Streeters ☐ Science and technology ☐ People profiles

What type of opinion articles do you read most?

- ☐ Political commentary ☐ Humour/satire ☐ Student life
☐ Weird/random musings ☐ Point-Counterpoint

What type of A&E articles do you read most?

- ☐ Film ☐ Theatre ☐ Music ☐ Gaming
☐ Visual arts ☐ Commentaries

Are you aware that University of Alberta students pay a \$2.90-per-term student levy to help fund the Gateway?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you aware that the Gateway is autonomous from the SU and University?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you aware that any student can volunteer for the Gateway?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you aware that the Gateway now publishes six issues in the summer (3 per term)?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

How interested would you be in reading a quarterly magazine published by the Gateway featuring long-form journalistic pieces, in-depth profiles, photo essays, book and art reviews, and other neat things that don't really fit a newspaper format? (1=not at all and 5=very interested)

- 1 2 3 4 5

What type of levy increase would you be in favour of for such a venture (on top of the current \$2.90 levy you already pay)?

- ☐ "None—pay for it your damn selves" ☐ ~\$0.25 (\$3.15 per term)
☐ ~\$0.50 (\$3.40 per term) ☐ ~\$1.00 (\$3.90 per term)
☐ ~\$2.00 (\$4.90 per term) ☐ ~\$3.00 (\$5.90 per term)
☐ "I'd pay anything for a Gateway magazine!"

Rate the following from 1 to 5, where 1=wretched and 5=rad:

PRINT EDITION

How convenient do you find the Gateway's distribution points?

- 1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate this year's news section?

- 1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate this year's opinion section?

- 1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate the editorial cartoons?

- 1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate this year's arts & entertainment section?

- 1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate this year's sports section?

- 1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate this year's features?

- 1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate this year's comics?

- 1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate this year's illustrations?

- 1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate the Gateway's photography?

- 1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate the Gateway's layout and design?

- 1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate the Gateway's coverage and representation of:

Women and women's issues

- 1 2 3 4 5

Visible minorities and minorities' issues

- 1 2 3 4 5

Undergraduate students and lifestyle

- 1 2 3 4 5

Local Issues and Edmonton lifestyles

- 1 2 3 4 5

SU policy and administration

- 1 2 3 4 5

University policy and administration

- 1 2 3 4 5

In general, how would you rate Gateway's relevance to students?

- 1 2 3 4 5

Overall, how would you rate Gateway this year?

- 1 2 3 4 5

WEBSITE

How would you rate the Gateway Online's navigability and ease of use?

- 1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate the design?

- 1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate the timeliness of its content?

- 1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate the search and archiving functions?

- 1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate the photo gallery?

- 1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate the editors' playlist?

- 1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate the blogs?

- 1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate the email newsletter?

- 1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate the online archives?

- 1 2 3 4 5

Overall, how would you rate the the Gateway Online?

- 1 2 3 4 5

Bonus Lightning Round!

What about the paper makes you want to pick it up?

If you or someone you know has decided to stop reading the Gateway, what were the reasons?

What would you like to see more or less of in the Gateway?

What improvements would you like to see to the Gateway Online?

What should each section of the paper (news, A&E, sports, opinion, comics, features) do that it currently doesn't?

What was the best article, photo, and/or illustration in the Gateway this year? Why?

What was the worst article, photo, and/or illustration in the Gateway this year? Why?

What were the best/worst front covers in the Gateway this year? Why?

Who are your favourite Gateway writers/photographers/artists? Why?

Have you ever thought about volunteering for the Gateway? Why or why not?

Do you prefer to read the Gateway in print or online?

If you're a returning student, do you think the Gateway has gotten better or worse since you first started reading it? Why?

Please add any additional comments here:

This survey is completely anonymous, but prizes will be awarded to randomly drawn surveys, including a \$100 Bookstore certificate, magazine subscriptions to *The Walrus*, *Harper's*, and *Maclean's*; Gateway T-shirts, frisbees, and toques; and tons of swag from our A&E fun sack!

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THE GATEWAY is proud to be a founding member of the Canadian University Press.



complaints

Comments, concerns, or complaints about the Gateway's content or operations should be first sent to the Editor-in-Chief at the address above. If the Editor-in-Chief is unable to resolve a complaint, be taken to the Gateway Student Journalism Society's Board of Directors, beyond that appeals to the non-partisan Society's OmbudsBoard. The chairs of the Board of Directors and the OmbudsBoard can be reached at the address above.

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colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, HP ScanJet flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super CoolScan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images. Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files. All content is burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of FENICE, Joanna, Kepler, and Whitney. The Manitoban is the Gateway's sister paper, and we overnerdly, though not in that way. The Gateway's games of choice are Rock Band and Daxter. Sweet goodbyes.

contributors

Jon Taves, Tom Wagner, Sean Stees, Kirsten Goruk, Jen Huggen, Caroline Lee, Bryan Saunders, Cody Giviero, Simon Yackulic, Ramiro Ostia, Caroline Gault, Kathryn Bell, Maria Koto, Jen Emily, Matt Ingsey, Blacky, John Printer, Kneen, Nick, sports monkey, Frost, Matt, Pretty, Jake, Prince, Brian Goud, Paul Knoechel, Juna, Jananag, Greg Queyrame, Lena Saen, Chris Krause, Jackson, John Gagnon, Lauren Aston, Lauren Stegitz, Pete Yee, Sam Brooks, Kate Mooney, Monica Leon-Quintero.

Everyone who contributed to read or used an issue of the Gateway as an opportunity to get the lunch out of a microwave means that's what's used for most.

COUNCIL FORUM

by Kirsten Goruk

Students' Council usually meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6pm. Council meetings are open to all students. The final meeting will be held on Tuesday, 8 April. Again, no food will be served, but outgoing Deputy News Editor Ryan Heise will probably be on hand to wax poetic about all of the amazing memories he had in the Scott Lilwall Memorial Press Gallery.

DFU OPT-OUT SHUT DOWN

Debate over Bill 6—the proposal for an online, centralized, SU-run dedicated fee unit (DFU) opt-out—was postponed in reading indefinitely at Council on Tuesday, 1 April.

The bill was originally introduced by Business councillor Scott Nicol in

“If it isn't, stay tuned, because my head exploding should be pretty entertaining.”

AMANDA HENRY
Speaker

—on her hope that the budget will be in second reading by next meeting

November 2007 and caused a significant amount of controversy between the SU and student-run organizations who rely on the funds.

Those voicing their concerns included the Alberta Public Interest Research Group (APIRG) and the SU-run Access Fund, which would have been greatly affected by the opt-out system. Representatives of APIRG had said they were unhappy with the lack of consultation by the SU regarding the issue when the bill was first introduced last year.

The topic was revived in Council on Tuesday when VP (Academic) Bobby Samuel and Arts councillor Beverly Eastham moved the

bill into reconsideration. The vote to indefinitely postpone the bill passed, and it will no longer be a topic of discussion at Council.

QUESTION PERIOD

Samuel responded to a question about the upgrade to Bear Tracks and how, if at all, Bear Scat will be factored into the changes. He explained that with the aid of Peoplesoft 9.0, a new feature will allow students to plan out courses for their entire degree, and that a shopping cart feature will let students compile a list with classes from all areas of study and then choose to register from that personalized list.

He went on to say that the SU will

continue to pressure the University about obtaining the scheduling function and wait list, grade, and textbook notification options, all of which are unique features of Bear Scat.

In light of the recent decision to eliminate credit card as a tuition payment option, SU President Michael Janz was asked to detail the other options available to students. He listed the basic choices—cheque, debit, and online debit—but went on to say that he has received some vague information about a third-party lender option which may be made available to international students. Finally, he advised anyone unsure of their options to visit www.financial.ualberta.ca.



RAISING THEIR VOICE BY KEEPING QUIET Participants in the Day of Silence gathered wearing green at Celebration Plaza to “speak out” about anti-LGBT harassment.

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Steve Smith and Pete Yee

As you may be aware, the school year is drawing to a close.
Do you have a summer job lined up?



Amanda Bennett
Arts IV



Curtis Rollins
Arts II



Jayme Laverty
Arts I



Justine
Zimmerman
Phys. Ed. II

“Yes—streetwalker.” [And that's just a summer thing?] “Well, it's warmer then.”

“No. My computer crashed a while ago, and I lost my resume, and I can't really apply without a resume. I've had a lot of papers and exams, so I've sort of been ignoring summer jobs. Which is a bad idea.” [What did you do last summer?] “Worked at Julio's.” [Are you going to apply there again?] “I'd rather not work 70-hour weeks. Mexican food, Mexican labour laws.”

“No.” [Are you looking for one?] “Sort of.” [“Sort of” in the sense that if somebody came up and offered you a job, you'd take it, but that's it?] “Basically.” [What did you do last summer?] “I worked in a movie store.” [But you're not going back there?] “Well, it was in Stony Plain.”

“Yes, I do. I work at a restaurant.” [Do you do that during the year too?] “Yeah.”

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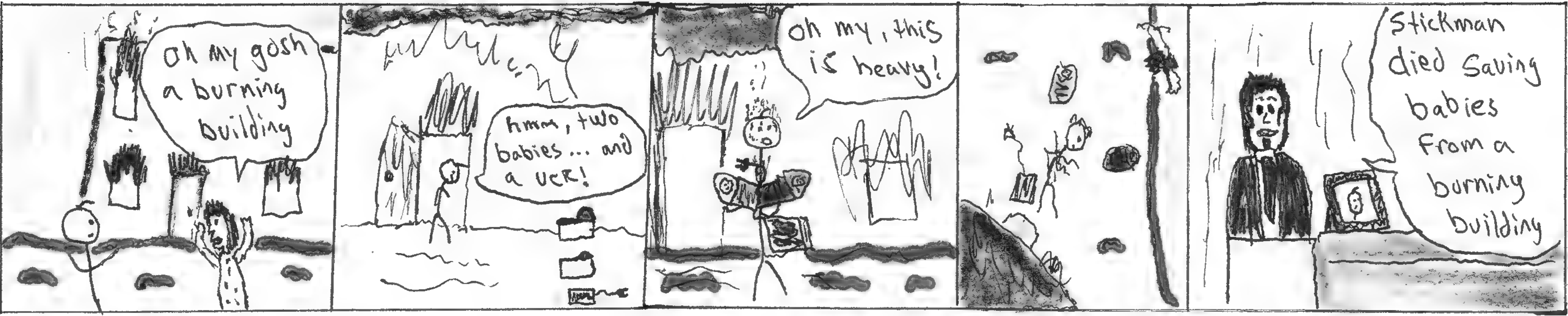
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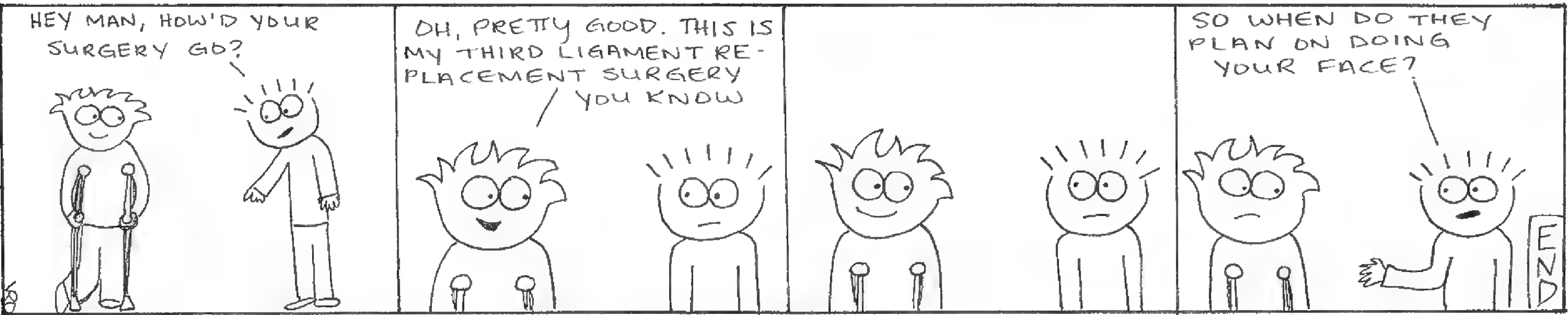
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APX Alarm is a residential security company ran out of the states. This position is for the summer months, May-Aug, and consists of living and working in Dallas, TX. Full accommodations, travel money and work visas are provided by the company. Summer earnings will vary based on work ethic and commitment. Average income last year was \$20,000. We are looking for individuals who are driven, confident, and hard working. Apply to kbowes@apxalarm.com

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VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The Student Distress Centre is looking for caring and dedicated individuals for May training. Apply now! www.su.ualberta.ca/sdc



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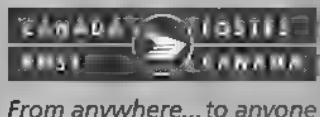
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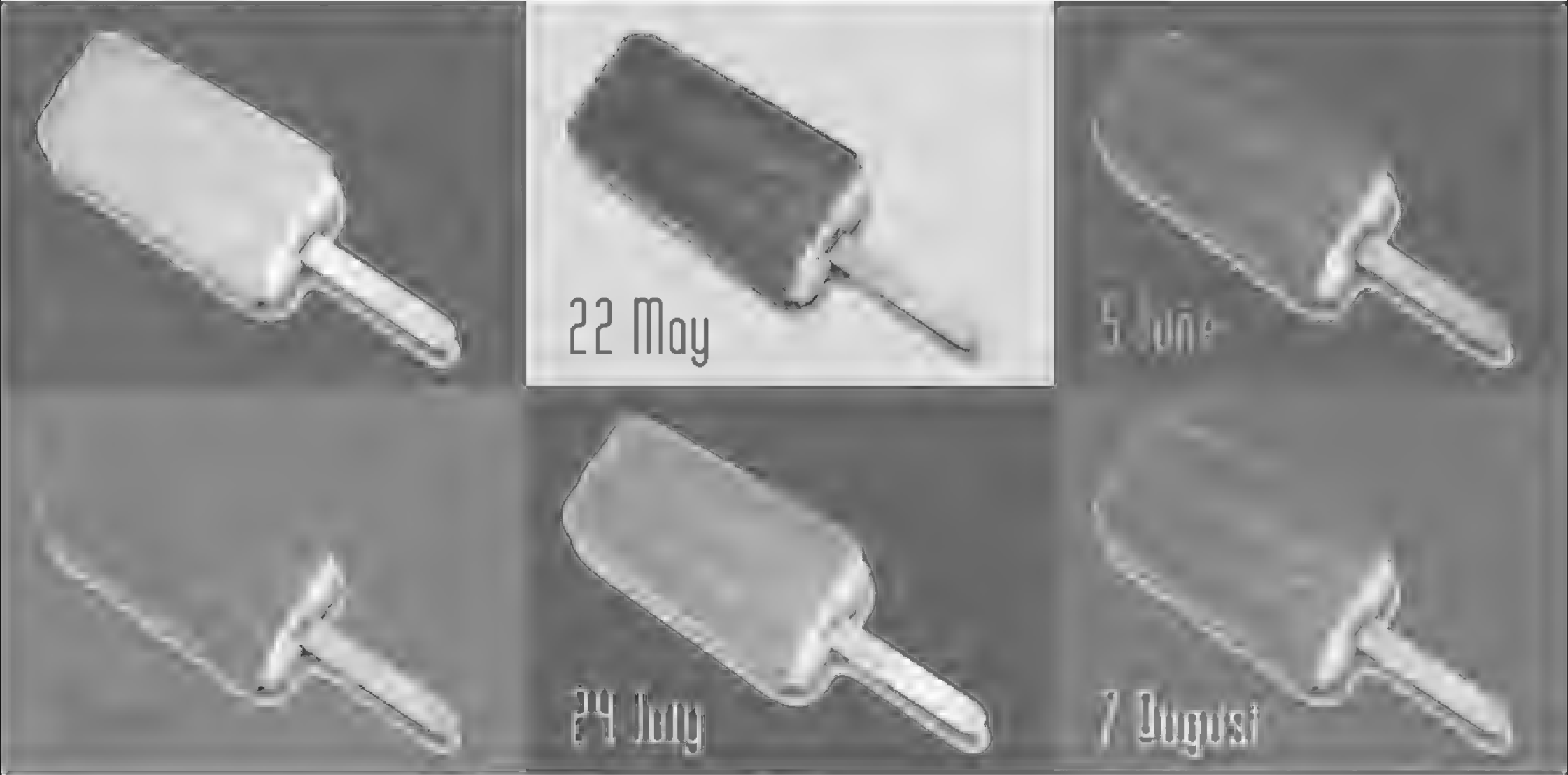


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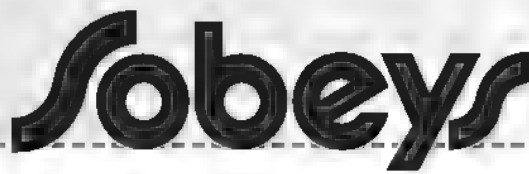
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PLANNING FOR FITNESS Dr Kim Raine says that properly planned neighbourhoods can have an impact on residences' health.

Study shows urban planning linked to physical fitness, health

TOM WAGNER
News Staff

A new study by University of Alberta researchers has found that urban planning is an important factor in determining what we eat and how much we exercise, and as a result, whether or not we'll struggle with obesity.

The *State of the Evidence Review on Urban Health and Healthy Weights* collected data from over 350 studies internationally before verifying that low income levels and neighbourhoods designed without walking in mind were often associated with poor diets and exercise regimes.

According to Dr Kim Raine, director of the U of A's Centre for Health Promotion Studies and co-author of the study, access to healthy food is often a major obstacle in lower-income neighbourhoods.

"If you live in a neighbourhood where there's little or no access to stores that provide you with inexpensive sources of healthy foods like fruits and vegetables, it's unlikely that you're going to consume those things," Raine explained. "We found that there's more access to things like fast food

restaurants in lower-income neighbourhoods, and there's less access to affordable, healthy foods."

According to Raine, another problem is that nutritious food options are often much more expensive than their fast food counterparts, a fact that he noted is readily observable even on campus.

"Sure enough, the cheapest place to buy food on campus is in the fast food restaurants, and the most expensive place is in the cafeterias," Raine said.

The problem, he explained, is further exacerbated because the poor are also much less likely than higher-income individuals to exercise in their spare time, a factor determined by both cost and the availability of free time.

"If they're having to work and then rush home and take care of their child or something, there's not a heck of a lot of time in their day to do some things for themselves," explained Dr John Spence, a U of A professor of physical education and recreation and co-author of the study.

According to Spence, this issue cannot be properly addressed by one-time fixes, but instead requires long-term programs to make sports and

recreational activities more accessible and affordable.

"For instance, getting into hockey is a really expensive thing," Spence said. "And a \$500 tax deduction that the federal government offers is not going to help people who won't be able to afford the initial \$500 to \$1000 to put their child in it."

Exercise levels are also heavily influenced by a neighbourhood's urban design. For instance, if there aren't sidewalks or walking paths, people are far more likely to drive to go about their daily errands.

"Typically, you have a more walkable neighbourhood in a denser population because they have more services to access, so you can walk to a store, you can walk to a recreation facility, that type of thing," Raine explained.

Although the causes behind the obesity problem are now quite clear to researchers, how to solve it isn't.

"We found very, very little evidence and information on the role of policy in terms of stimulating these types of things," Spence explained. "So what it showed us was that there's a real gap there and a need for more research and definitely some work to be done there."

Motion to dismiss withdrawn following letter

SAMUEL • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"There was an apology letter from Bobby Samuel on the late additions regarding some activity at DIE Board, which I think adequately rectifies the situation," Nicol said.

Chris Samuel, who represented his brother during the hearing, denied allegations that Bobby Samuel's SU presidential election campaign materials mirrored the design, content, and slogans previously used for a pamphlet that was deemed to be pre-campaigning and banned from distribution.

In his letter, Bobby Samuel clarified that Chris had, at his request, originally agreed to "plead guilty" to all pending charges at the 4 March DIE Board meeting, and said that he was not aware of his brother's altered stance until some time later.

"I apologize for these events; they were not supposed to happen like this," he concluded in his letter.

"I think that there was a lot of animosity, but I feel that my letter to Council addressed a lot of those concerns," he noted after Tuesday's meeting. "I hope that Students' Council can trust me to [continue to] work in the best interest of students."

Had it passed, the motion to



BOBBY BLOWOVER Samuel put to rest the issues surrounding elections Tuesday.

remove Samuel from office would have led to the first formal removal of an SU executive in the organization's history. However, Council voted unanimously in favour of the motion's withdrawal.

While Samuel managed to escape any further disciplinary action, he also stressed a commitment to keep working during the last month of his term. This sentiment was echoed by Janz, who observed that the SU should be concentrating on more wide-reaching student interests.

"I hope that we all can learn a lesson

from what's happened this year and can move on and keep focusing on the bigger fish we have to fry, like the credit card issue," Janz remarked.

Although he felt that this decision marks the end of any further controversy, Janz hopes that future SU executives can learn from this example.

"I think it's a warning to future executives that no matter what happens in your term, if you mess around and Council doesn't feel that you're doing your job, even if it's the eleventh hour, you can still be held accountable for your actions."

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Questions are user-generated, peer-reviewed

MED QUIZ • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"[A peer-evaluation system] is what you need to have. You've got to improve the questions by successive approximations. You've got to edit them and keep refining them, and eventually, you'll get a good one," Rayner commented.

With increases in popularity with medical students, Kozan finds that more students are becoming involved with QuizMD through the creation of over a dozen satellite sites. In addition, preceptors are beginning to work in concert with these students to review the material for accuracy and validity.

"It's good for both parties. For [the student], it's a way to interact with preceptors in the field, which could precipitate presentations and publications. It's a great way to get noticed," Kozan said. "For the preceptor, who may be involved in medical education, it may allow for them to advance their career."

Despite these evident advantages, Kozan still has various future improvements planned. He hopes to expand the user base to encompass not only students from the U of A but those from every university. He has already started to achieve this goal with presentations scheduled at two conferences: those of the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC) and the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians (CAEP).

"Really, the sky's the limit in terms of where Daniel wants to take QuizMD," explained Aaron Knox, President of the U of A's Medical Students' Association. "There are a lot of different types of online learning resources that could be incorporated into that. It has a lot of potential to be an amazing learning tool for medical students."

Study of mice may explain human vision loss

BRYAN SAUNDERS
News Staff

Many people are familiar with the nursery rhyme "Three Blind Mice," but most would be surprised to learn that this children's song might hold the key to preventing serious vision loss in humans.

This comes on the heels of research by Dr Yves Sauve, an assistant professor in ophthalmology at the U of A. According to Sauve, mice with a genetic mutation called ELOVL4 have already revealed a way of preventing age-related macular degeneration (AMD) in humans, and may soon reveal more. The mutation in question usually causes blindness in these mice as they age, in a way very similar to how AMD gradually causes blindness in humans.

However, when the mice were given regular supplements of docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), the gradual loss of vision that's normally experienced by these mice was either slowed or halted altogether. Studies are now underway to see how effective DHA is at preventing vision loss in humans—and so far, it's yielded promising results.

Sauve and his research team are cautiously optimistic, and for good reason.

"AMD is the most common cause of serious visual loss in of people over 65 in the Western world," Sauve said, adding that, ironically, by the year 2020, 20 per cent of Alberta's citizens are going to be over 65.

Hopefully, he says, some lessons can be learned by then from the mice studied, and an aging human population will not result in what Sauve described as a sudden "tidal wave" of AMD diagnoses. One of the important things the mice have to teach us, he explained, is to think about what we eat.

"For some reason, [AMD] is not as common [in the Eastern world]. So that is very interesting. And they have a different diet, so that is also very interesting."

He speculated that this is because many people



MONICA LEON-QUINTERO

THREE 20/20 MICE Dr Yves Sauve discusses his discovery that may link DHA and blindness.

in the Eastern world already make DHA a part of their traditional diet by eating fish on a regular basis. Mackerel and salmon, Sauve explained, are both rich in omega-3 fatty acids, one of which is DHA. But, he added, there are other ways to incorporate DHA for those people who don't like to eat fish.

"The other way is [to eat] a precursor of DHA which is [found in] flax seed. So you can eat flax seed, or flax seed oil—it makes a nice vinaigrette with balsamic vinegar. I tried it a while ago, it was really nice."

However, all this dietary manipulation might be in vain for some people, Sauve cautioned. If another change isn't made to diet, many will still end up as blind as a mouse.

"The problem is that if you are going to have a nice vinaigrette of DHA on the same day that you

go to McDonald's, you've screwed everything up, because the saturated fatty acids will prevent the production of DHA from linolenic acid [in the flax seed]. So it's common sense. Don't eat saturated fats. Eat flax seed," he advised.

While DHA can also be bought in pill form at health food stores, Sauve isn't an advocate of the practice, saying that dietary sources are probably best.

"You can buy it over the shelf, but I'm not suggesting that everybody goes and does that because we don't know the side-effects. It's possible that concentrations that are too high could have side-effects. We don't know yet."

However, through his ongoing research with mice, Sauve does intend to find out. Though if he keeps it up, they may soon have to change the name of the nursery rhyme.

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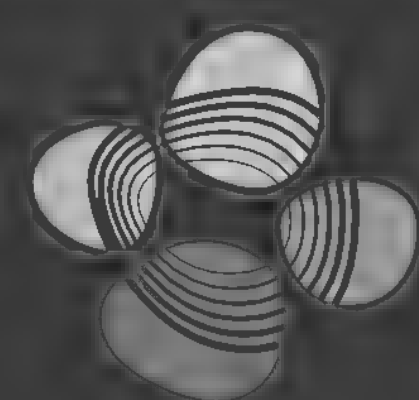
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FASTING IN THE SNOW Students participating in the 30 Hour Famine protest on the steps of the Alberta Legislature.

Students starve for solutions

30 Hour Famine participants look to raise awareness of global starvation

JENNIFER HUYGEN
News Staff

The issues of hunger and poverty are often viewed on campus through textbooks and television screens, but last week they became a reality for approximately 50 University of Alberta students who participated in the University's second World Vision 30 Hour Famine.

Organized by representatives from the Make Poverty History and Campus for Christ student groups, the 30 Hour Famine starved students from 1pm on 27 March until 7pm on 28 March in an effort to raise money and awareness for World Vision projects around the globe.

According to Steffen Janzen, a second-year student in international business and one of the organizers of the event, the funds raised from this year's project will go towards providing nutritious food, clean water, medicine, and shelter for children in countries such as Uganda and Ecuador.

"Last year, over 100 000 teens across the country did the 30 Hour Famine, and they raised over \$4.5 million to help children and communities in need around the world," Janzen said. "Last year, [the U of A chapter] raised over \$5000, so we're upping that and hoping to raise \$10 000 this year for World Vision."

As Janzen explained, the event acts

as a practical way to make a difference on both a global and personal level.

"So often we're confronted with these issues in the media and in our studies, and it's hard to find a really practical way to do something. So the nice thing about the Famine is it's really simple and really practical, and I find it's a real growing experience," he said.

"Last year over 100 000 teens across the country did the 30 Hour Famine and they raised over \$4.5 million to help children and communities in need around the world."

STEFFEN JANZEN
30 HOUR FAMINE ORGANIZER

This year's event included a hunger strike on the steps of the Alberta Legislature and added a local component by offering participants the opportunity to serve meals at the Hope Mission.

"It's a cool way, when we talk about hunger and poverty, to actually learn about it in our own local community," Janzen noted. "[It's] good to

help children in Africa, but often we just ignore the problems in our own community, so we want to address local issues and global issues."

Janzen's sentiments were echoed by Mona Horvatic, a first-year science student and representative of the Make Poverty History group who stressed the value of learning about hunger and poverty as an international issue.

"[It] helps you get a good perspective about what's going on in Third World countries," she said.

According to Horvatic, social justice events like the famine allow students to meet other people and to raise awareness. She explained that lasting 30 hours without food is also very doable.

"I find that it was almost psychological," Horvatic said. "If you just kept busy and didn't think about eating, it wasn't that bad."

The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) estimates that over 852 million people worldwide suffer from chronic malnutrition. As Janzen explained, this statistic can be better understood by placing oneself in the shoes of those who don't get enough to eat on a daily basis.

"[It] really causes you to think and [...] appreciate more what we do have and be a lot more aware that this fasting part that we're experiencing is normal reality for a lot of other people."

ALSO READ **JAHANAGIR** ♦ PAGE 11

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

laptop theft edition

Compiled by Cody Civiero

MACKIN' ON MACS

On 24 March at 9:40am, two separate thefts of laptop computers from SUB were reported to Campus Security Services. The thefts occurred between 8:40am and 8:50am from the quiet study room on the main floor of the building. The suspect in both thefts is described as a non-Caucasian male, approximately 25 years of age with braided hair, 5'6"—5'8" tall, 150lbs, and wearing a light coloured hoodie, khaki pants, and an earring in his left ear. The male was observed waiting in the area for approximately half an hour prior to the thefts and left the area through the SUB loading dock. Keep an eye out and let CSS know if this laptop bandit makes a comeback.

FIRST THEY CAME AFTER ME, NOW THEY'RE AFTER MY FRIENDS

On 26 March at 3:15pm, CSS peace officers responded to a theft complaint in

HUB Mall. A certain *Gateway* reporter was sitting at a table in the middle of the mall with another person for approximately 15 minutes. He had placed his backpack, containing his laptop, underneath his chair. A short while later, he was getting up to leave when he noticed his backpack was missing. Neither the complainant nor the person he was sitting with observed anyone take the bag.

DNA LOOKS AWESOME ON HDTV

On 24 March, Campus Security responded to a break and enter in the Clinical Sciences building. It appears that over the weekend, suspects posing as construction workers entered the area and stole two plasma screen televisions from an office within the building. The EPS Identification Unit was contacted, and several pieces of forensic evidence were collected. The investigation is ongoing, and Campus 5-0 is hoping for clues.

CAT BURGLAR NABS MOUSE ATTACHED TO LAPTOP

At 12:50am on 27 March, officers responded to a theft complaint in SUB. A female student was using a washroom when an unidentified male reached under

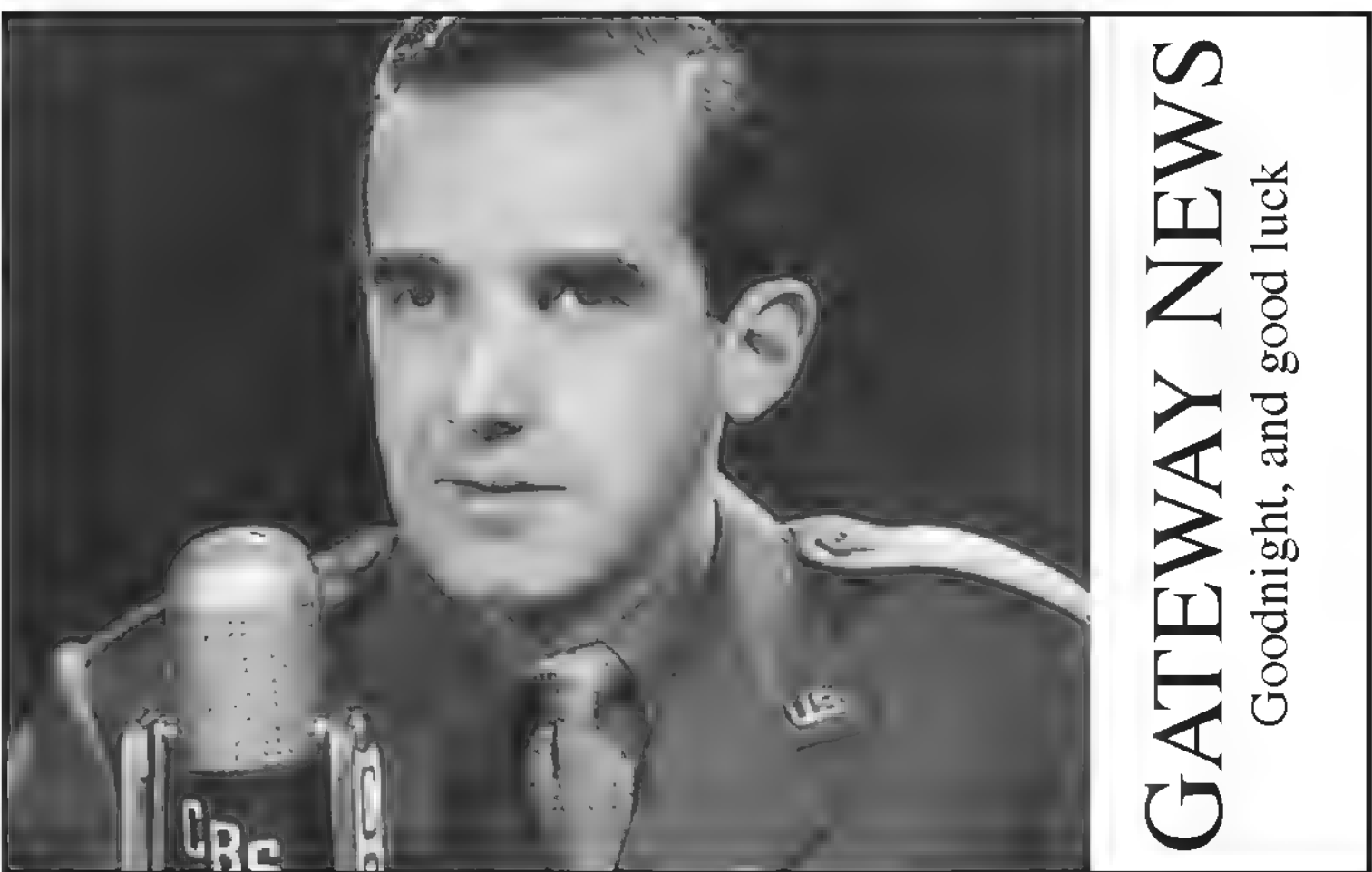
the stall door and took her bag, which contained her laptop and other personal items. The male then fled the area. The male is described as Caucasian, approximately 30 years of age, 5'7" tall, 150lbs, and wearing a grey hoodie, baseball cap, and black running shoes.

PLEASE LEAVE THE PCs

On 27 March at 7:00pm, CSS responded to a report of a break-in at a club office in the School of Business. A laptop bag, containing a club member's laptop and keys, had been recently stolen. It appears that the culprits used the keys to gain access to the club office and steal a significant number of laptops from the area. The EPS and CSS have teamed up to further this investigation.

AS THEY SAY IN GTA, "BUSTED"

At 2:46am on 30 March, 5-0 officers observed a male, well known to both CSS and the EPS, inside a stairwell in HUB Mall. The male, who had a Playstation and a digital camera in his possession, was subsequently arrested for trespassing. He was turned over to the EPS who are investigating the male for possession of stolen property. Charges are pending.



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Internet speed-throttling hits U of M

Web filtering is slowing some students' downloads, while others are being banned

ASHLEY GABOURY
The Manitoban (University of Manitoba)

WINNIPEG (CUP)—Restrictions placed on the University of Manitoba's computer network has landed some students in hot water over illegal downloads.

The U of M constantly monitors campus computer traffic to detect movie and music downloads from file-sharing programs. The network then automatically restricts the connection speed to ensure that teaching and research-related downloads can be obtained quickly, according to Gerry Miller, executive director of Information Services and Technology (IST) at the university.

George Siemens, associate director of the University's Learning Technologies Centre, said that it's best to treat bandwidth as the size of a pipe.

"If you have a large pipe, you can put more stuff through [...] it's just a matter of how much information can the University's Internet structure handle at a particular time.

"Certainly once people start downloading [...] entire movies, which can be a gigabyte or more in size compared with 24 kilobits for a webpage, there is a significant bandwidth issue."

The University has a theoretical bandwidth on campus of 100 megabits per second to each desktop machine, according to Miller.

"At home on a cable modem there might be four [megabits per second]. DSL might be two," said Miller.

Miller said the University limits only a very specific type of traffic, which isn't as important to the University as other time-sensitive traffic.

"Downloading a movie is less important. First of all, if you download a movie, you should make sure you're allowed to do that. Secondly, you can wait for it," Miller said.

"There is a lot of other traffic that we can't [wait for]. Our priority is teaching and research."

Miller said the University's campus network has two connections. The first is for off-campus connections for commercial Internet sites, and the second is for research across Canada.

Both the general campus network and separate residence network are monitored for certain types of file-sharing. The equipment monitors the type of traffic coming in, but not the content.

"It's not illegal, and it is possible [to monitor content], but we don't do it," Miller said.

"There is certain traffic that we

know that we can look for. If the network's not busy, then so what? If the network is busy with other use [related to teaching and research], then we limit [that certain traffic]. We don't block it [...] it takes longer."

Miller noted that all universities monitor and limit bandwidth and have been for a number of years.

"It's just a fact of life," he said.

Siemens added that in the last five years, there's been dramatic change in the information available on the Internet.

Siemens said that universities in the United States have implemented filtering policies in response to lawsuits filed against them by the Recording Industry Association of America after students downloaded pirated music.

"With the rise in the development of those kinds of legal liabilities, universities are put in a position where they have to be aware of how their network policies relate to legal or ethical issues."

Siemens said that the U of M's filtering process effectively protects the University from liability issues and ensures a degree of quality by minimizing downloads.

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Cricket prank puts a hold on residence hockey tournament

NIKKI JOHNSTON
ASHLEY FLETCHER
The Xaverian Weekly (St Francis Xavier)

ANTIGONISH (CUP)—A residence rivalry at Nova Scotia's St Francis Xavier University was drowned out by the sounds of chirping insects after approximately 1000 live crickets were emptied into the hallways of a student dormitory as a pre-hockey-game prank.

The 16 March incident resulted in two students being fired as residence executives.

Thompson and Tompkins, one residence, was targeted by its rival Chisholm and Gillis in advance of the University's residence hockey tournament, the Xavier Cup.

Adam Harris, President of the Students' Union, confirmed that one resident of Thompson and Tompkins had to be moved from the residence because of their fear of crickets.

The University's facilities management placed small sticky-pads in each room to try and kill the crickets without moving students out of the building. According to roommates Sarah MacLellan and Heather Johnston, it can take a couple of days for them to die once they become trapped.

At a meeting with University officials the following day, Sheryl MacAulay, President of Chisholm and Gillis, denied having had any advance knowledge of the prank.

The two residences were scheduled to play against each other in a hockey tournament on 18 March as part of the Xavier Cup.

According to the University, the joke may have been taken too far. Until the perpetrators of the prank came forward, they said, there would be no hockey game.



NOT SO CHIRPY A hockey team released 1000 crickets into their rivals' dorm.

But the Student's Union wasn't convinced the game should be stopped.

"We said, 'Woah, woah, woah, hold on here,'" Harris said. "We treated the issue as very serious but hoped this was an isolated event by a small number of students. We wanted them to step forward."

Late on 17 March, four individuals came forward. But Harris and University officials later learned that the residence's President and Vice-President knew about the prank before it happened, contradicting their earlier statements.

"The house leaders had just told us 24 hours before that they weren't involved; this is why we asked them to resign," Harris explained.

MacAulay and Aylward said they were told that if they didn't resign, they would be brought before Students' Union Council and impeached.

"Many people in the residence knew [about] and were involved with purchasing the crickets," Harris said. "It wasn't just these four girls that organized it; there were reports that they collected money from the rest of the

house and had been planning this."

Aylward said that because house elections for next year are so soon, there'll be no house president for the remainder of the year. Funds amounting to approximately \$1800 in the house bank account have been frozen.

Both residences have also been removed from the Xavier Cup.

The University also imposed undisclosed sanctions on several students, according to Dean of Students Joe MacDonald.

MacDonald added, however, that pranks occur regularly on the campus and, when in good taste, can help promote a healthy campus community.

"Through inter-house cups [and] intramurals, there have been many healthy rivalries between houses, and we support the leadership of students who support these—for the most part they are very healthy," he said.

Andrea Forbes, the Students' Union Vice-President (Student Relations), said that bonding activities are being planned for the two residences.

Contract-staff strike leaves Laurier students wondering about graduation

LAURA CARLSON
The Cord Weekly (Wilfrid Laurier)

WATERLOO (CUP)—Contract academic staff (CAS) at Wilfrid Laurier University, representing 365 part-time professors, have walked off the job. And with the end of the semester so near, many students are now concerned about graduating.

"Mostly, we've been concerned about the students and the contingency plans and the students who have urgent issues about graduating," said Sue Horton, the University's Vice-President (Academics).

"So we've been trying to figure out some more policies."

Horton said that updates on the University's website will soon alert students to the university's policies regarding their academic credits.

Negotiations between the university and the union broke down in the early morning of March 19, and it's unclear when they will resume.

"I think we're taking a bit of a rest because they were up all night," said Kevin Crowley, a university spokesperson.

"The university is still willing to meet at any time, and we've told the CAS team, but we haven't heard back. So at the moment, there are no new talks scheduled," he said.

Horton added that the University's offers were the best possible.

"We put an offer on the table. [...] I think they are very fair offers," Horton said.

"Frankly, we do not have more money we can put into this, given the economy and the University's budget deficit," she said.

The University's offer was for a 3.5 per cent wage increase in the first year of the new contract and three per cent in the second and third years.

The only other issue on the table is seniority.

"The outstanding other issues are issues of principal where we feel our position is what is upholding the quality of students' instruction, and we would not want to compromise that," Horton said.

"Whatever the seniority package looks like, [the University] definitely wants to make sure that we have the best professors in the classrooms," Crowley added.

Full-time faculty are continuing to teach their classes whether they support CAS or not, Crowley said.

"They are legally required to continue teaching because they are under a separate contract, and I haven't heard anything to the contrary," Crowley said.

In the meantime, the University is encouraging students to continue with their coursework, even if a CAS professor teaches the class.

"The large majority of courses are operating," Horton said.

"Exams are coming up, and even if you have an instructor in the CAS course who isn't currently teaching, if you plan on graduating and completing the course, it makes sense to complete the work for the course now," she said.

"We're working to resolve it and to make arrangements such that exams will occur and grades will get in as soon as possible."

Some students said, however, that classes have been cancelled and students have been told that they don't need to cross the picket line if they feel uncomfortable doing so.

Other classes are being taught by alternate professors.

"I think that spirits are pretty high, and we're very enthusiastic," said Nick Ray, a part-time professor in the communications department at Laurier.

"Students have shown lots of support [and] the non-contract academic staff and full-time faculty have also come out to support us," he added.

Most of the contract academic staff are hopeful that the dispute will be resolved quickly.

"I hope that we can get a good settlement soon and we can get back to the classes and teaching the students and doing what we're here to do," said Annette Abma, a part-time professor in the English department.

"It's disappointing," she added. "I've been hoping, for students especially, that we wouldn't have to strike."

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More to campus life than books

AT THE END OF EVERY PUBLISHING YEAR AT THE *Gateway*, an outgoing editor usually takes a shot at writing what either turns out to be a metaphorical suicide note or a vaguely humorous attack on the new editors. This year, such an “honour” falls to me, but instead, Uncle Ryan is going to teach you kids returning to this sprawling campus next year a lesson or two about surviving to the bittersweet end.

On 18 March, I wrote in an editorial that the University is providing students with the bare minimum in the form of a degree. While I still stand by this and believe that the U of A could be giving back a lot more to its students, in retrospect, I’ve realized that this is a bit of a misleading statement. As clichéd as it may sound, university is what you choose to make of it.

If you choose just to come to campus, go to class, and then escape back to your basement suite to read some more Machiavelli, all the power to you. But be prepared to enjoy four to five years of crippling depression and a healthy liver. If you decide to go down this route, you’ve really lost sight of what these, the most formative years of your life, are about.

Academia is so very secondary to being at university—it’s a shame that so few people realize this. Look at it this way: in a few years, you’re going to be too busy worrying about paying bills, getting married, settling into a career, and maybe even making babies with a partner—though you’ll probably be a horrible parent, you uptight twat.

The truth is that there’s so much to enjoy at university. Join a club; join a rec team; come volunteer at the *Gateway*; join a fraternity; take a semester off and travel; drink adult beverages with friends, often; get involved with the Students’ Union (lord knows they need all the help they can get); take a course that’s outside the scope of your degree, and broaden yourself. This list could probably go on indefinitely, but I think you get the idea. You’re not going to have this level of freedom and opportunity for personal enjoyment until you retire from whatever menial career you adopt, and at that stage, your body will be too old to do most of the wild and crazy things you’ve always wanted to.

At the end of the day, many of us, whether undergrads or grad students, are on the precipice of venturing out to the real world where actual responsibility lurks, waiting and plotting to employ as much of our time as possible.

This beast is evil and will break even the strongest-willed individuals, and unless you’re one of the rare few who attain their “dream job,” responsibility will latch onto you and implant its horrible dark seed of depression and stress in your brain. Scientists have proven that this is how life works, and their only solution is to have a good time while you can—which, oddly enough, is now—so you have something to reminisce about during those particularly painful days in your cubicle.

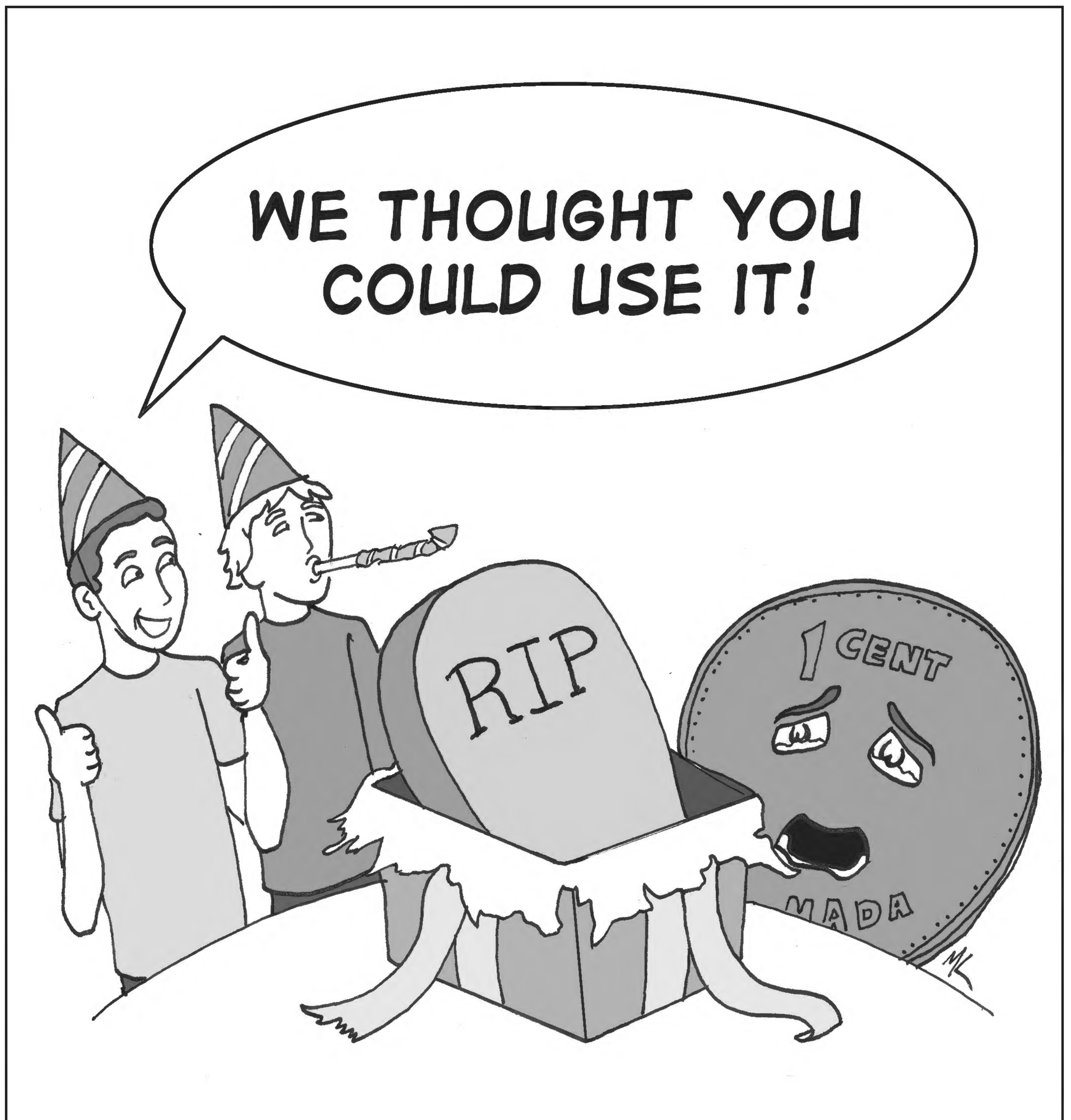
So that’s it: my swan song, my bitter-sweet goodbye, my personal eulogy for becoming obsolete at the hands of a group of younger and more talented individuals. But if these “gems of wisdom” have left you feeling unsatisfied, let me drop some very practical knowledge on you before I pack up and fly to far eastern edge of this nation: La Pasta in HUB is the best place to eat on campus, the best washrooms are on the fourth floor of SUB and the third floor of Rutherford South, and doing things that make you happy is actually better than sitting at a desk trying to write a term paper, no matter how badly you think you need the marks.

RYAN HEISE
Deputy News Editor

Elegy for a black sheep

My sister made it
To the Beijing Olympics
How do I top that?

CONAL PIERSE
Opinion Editor



MIKE KENDRICK

LETTERS

Good job, man of sticks

(Re: “Stickman,” 27 March). Well done, *Stickman*. Well done.

JULIE HALL
Engineering IV

Don’t pack it in just yet you impatient bastards

I’ve been in my fair share of classes over the last four years, and it always amazes me when students start to shuffle papers, put books away, and start chatting when the classes are more than a few minutes away from finishing.

I know that some of us have to make the odd trek from ETLC to Telus in ten minutes, but the vast majority of you aren’t in much of a rush.

Considering how much we all pay to come to this university, isn’t it odd that people want to get out of class so early? Most of my profs wrap things up a bit before the time is up, but I can’t stand it when I have to strain to hear them talking over a barrage of laughing, meaningless small talk, and zippers.

I can imagine how annoying it is to the profs as well. Have you ever been talking to someone and then been suddenly interrupted?

I don’t know too many people that enjoy having that happen to them.

We’re not in kindergarten people, let’s sit still until class is done.

DANIEL GREGORIO
Science IV

Without pennies, what will we pay for thoughts?

If you can say stupid, then you already know the description of the government’s plan to get rid of the penny. Really now, what advantages does this have? What does it change? The answer: squat. Alright, I’m sorry, almost squat.

For one, we’ll have to pay more with the lack of the most basic currency unit. Secondly, think about those charities that would lose much money due to the fact that no one would have supposedly useless pennies to donate to them.

Finally, what possible advantages can it bring? Oh yeah, the government won’t have to make pennies anymore! How generous of them! Rather than them having to pay for the pennies, we’ll be paying for the lack thereof. How oh-so-absolutely wonderful! They get a self-fulfilling change, and we get to pay more for everything.

JOEL BOULET
Computing Science I

Super Fan reflects on a great year of U of A sports

Well I can’t believe Bears/Pandas

sporting events are done for another year. Where did the time go?

I’m so proud and honoured to be the U of A’s Super Fan for my ninth year and seeing our teams come out as winners—and even graduating from their programs. They studied hard and deserve to be called winners!

It’s been fun and exciting to meet you all in various sports and being able to work at your games too, like football, volleyball, basketball, as well as Pandas and Bears hockey!

It has been great to be your Super Fan. Taking your friends’ and families’ tickets at the games, meeting your friends and families, and, most of all, being friends with the exciting teams called Bears and Pandas sports!

It’s also awesome to see some of our teams win the Canada West final and even get the gold medal! I’m so proud of you all and am praying—yes praying—that you do the best you can in both your schooling and sporting events as well as most of all your daily lives.

Even though I may have cried when we didn’t win, I’m always proud of you all in all of our sports, and am proud to be called your Super Fan!

I wanted to let you all know that you’ve been a great family—yes, family—of friends and your coaches, trainers, family, and friends with your encouragements, support, and telling me that I’m cared for. Even when I feel down, you lift me up to go on in life since my adopted

parents passed on.

It’s great to be part of this Bears and Pandas family, and being your Super Fan! I also pray, support, and cheer you on in the sports you play, and most of all letting you all know you have a friend that will be there for you till we meet again maybe in the NHL, NBA, or just down 82nd avenue.

But mostly, I want too see you all in heaven and play our sports and see our friends we met here at the U of A and having friendships that last forever!

ROBERT SOLOVIEV
U of A Super Fan

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca (no attachments, please).

The *Gateway* reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The *Gateway* also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author’s name, program, year of study, and student identification number to be considered for publication.

So I guess this is it, the end of my reign of terror over the letters section. I can’t say that I’ll miss the all-caps and comma splices, but now that I don’t have an italicized area to say whatever the fuck I want without remorse, I can’t help but feel a tinge of regret.

U-Pass nice for those who use it



JAKE PRINS

I'd like to start off by thanking the 3000 people who didn't go pick up their U-Passes this semester. I bet you're glad to have contributed \$75 each towards a service that you apparently have no use for. And I'm sure you'll be most glad to hear that with the money I saved on bus passes this year, I was able to purchase *Rock Band* and subsequently master "The Electric Version" on every instrument on Hard.

I think that everyone's aware by now that the U-Pass allows us to avoid drinking and driving—personally, I'm thankful for that because there's nothing like a crazy night of packing it in at 11:20pm to catch the last bus back to Sherwood Park. And we can all feel a little less guilty about the damage we're doing to the environment because the U-Pass allows us to save the planet by taking advantage of the whopping four park-and-rides that the city of Edmonton has to offer. Thanks, U-Pass!

But enough about the benefits; I'm sorry to be a negative Nellie here—especially since apparently only 15 per cent of campus has a problem with getting other people to pay for their stuff. However, I noticed a recent claim about the U-Pass' ozone-saving powers that seemed a tad misleading.

Let's imagine that I'm a university student who lives about twelve blocks from

campus. The Students' Union comes to me with a wonderful proposal: "Hey Jake!" they start enthusiastically, "don't you think bus passes cost an exorbitant amount of money?" They'd make sure to use the word "exorbitant," so that I know that they're university students with large vocabularies just like me, showing me that they're on my side. And they'd also make sure that they looked glum about the whole ordeal, because they're students too.

I'm sorry to be a negative Nellie here—especially since apparently only 15 per cent of campus has a problem with getting other people to pay for their stuff.

Then they'd cheer up and tell me that "they've got a deal for me!" All I have to do is vote their U-Pass through and I'll save a hundred—if not hundreds—of dollars per term. Pretty soon, I start to see posters of people smiling while riding busses, and I know that this plan can't possibly go wrong. Hooray!

Now let's say it's 18 January, and it's freezing outside. I'm wearing every piece of clothing I own—as well as some that I don't—and I still risk frostbite if I stay outside for more than five minutes. I'm sure not looking forward to my twelve-block walk home. Then I remember that I've got a U-Pass now, so I can just take the bus home. I hop on instead of being rushed to the hospital

for limb transplants, then I'm delivered to my house—another satisfied client.

Now let's say it's 24 April, and it's the warmest day since last year. I've just finished enjoying a well-deserved soda pop upon completing my last exam. I'm going to go home, relax, and start enjoying the summer. And I guess I could walk, but fuck me if I'm not getting a bit lazy. I guess I'll just hang around ten minutes till my bus comes.

Finally, let's say my name is Gordon Dykstra. I'm ETS's project co-ordinator for the U-Pass, and I also think the U-Pass is fantastic. In fact, I've just "explained" to the "Gateway" that the U-Pass has "resulted in keeping approximately 610 metric tons of carbon dioxide out of the air." But unfortunately, there's kind of a catch, and it's that I'm "assuming those riders would have driven themselves."

I'll be honest: I don't actually know how many other pedestrians are taking advantage of their U-Pass—I'd guess it's a lot more than one, though. And I don't know how many new riders would have driven if they didn't have a U-Pass, but I'd guess it's a lot less than all of them. It doesn't seem all that unreasonable to say it might be around 3000.

So to all you U-Pass supporters who are getting flustered by this article: I'm sure you've all already started hastily typing out a response, and I say bring them on! I'd love nothing more than for you to show me the error of my ways so I can guiltlessly use public transit and fully enjoy the \$250 the U-Pass saves me in a typical year. Just make sure you take a glum tone in your letters—I want to make sure you're on my side.

So long, and thanks for the overpasses

It was good while it lasted, Edmonton, but it's time for us to go our separate ways



BRIAN GOULD

Edmonton, we need to talk. This relationship just isn't working for me. I could tell you it's not you, it's me, but let's be honest: we both know it's you. Everyone knows it's you. They've seen this coming for months, and you shouldn't be so shocked—it was never going to work.

First of all, I'm tired of hearing about your potholes. Every winter city has them, and really, yours aren't that bad. So lay off already, and while you're at it, stop the constant whining about snow clearing. Honestly, with all of your current problems, these are the two that you're concerned with?

Your bedroom communities are complete disasters. You really should have stopped after your first dozen. It's one thing that you've got some left over from previous planners, but I'm just not ready to plan some more with you, so stop asking. I know it's harsh, but I just can't risk them looking like you.

You've really let yourself go—you're so huge you disgust me. The beltway's definitely not working (talk about a muffin-top). And if you're so dead-set on growing, you could at least make an effort to grow up. What's your problem with density anyway? You claim to want to stop your sprawling, but you keep fighting it tooth-and-nail. A little hypocritical, I have to say. Maybe you just don't want us to ever have anything nice.

Don't get me wrong: you've got some good features, but you keep ignoring them. Your valleys are nice—even though you keep wanting to build roads through them—and you're getting a new LRT extension south, but for some reason you're worried about traffic on Gateway Boulevard. If you'd just rely on your transit a little more, you wouldn't need to keep going under the knife—and to be frank, your roads are so wide it's obscene. Everyone's staring, and it's not in a good way.

I wasn't going to bring it up, but since you can't let go: I've been thinking about another city.

Don't even get me started on those new entrance features. I'm all for a little sprucing up, but is a couple of icy daggers the best you can do? I guess you think they're symbolic or something, and you're probably right—though not in the way you're thinking.

We've had a few good fights this year, and now that it's over, I have to say I enjoyed them. It was great to finally tell you off in public after bottling it up for years. Not that you're listening to me—not a chance. Just last month, you rejected rental housing for a mature neighbourhood because it didn't have all the parking you claim to need. You said it was because the neighbours need space for their five cars per household. You oppose a downtown arena because of parking, but have you ever even seen your downtown? Do you even listen

to yourself talk? It's ridiculous!

At first you claimed to care about the environment and society, and then you stomped on my heart. Tory Blue really doesn't look good on you—I miss good old Redmonton. Well, now you don't have to worry about me getting between you and your dirty secret on the side. That's right, I know about you and Fort Mac. The signs of an addiction aren't hard to spot, and I've seen you driving like there's no tomorrow. You're high on gas right now, aren't you?

You just can't admit it's over. I wasn't going to bring it up, but since you can't let go: I've been thinking about another city. A little foggy, a little shaky, but oh, what a sight! It's walkable, it's got real subways, and it even has bicycle boulevards. I can see we're going to be happy together. Though it might not long-term—I'm not ready to settle down yet.

Your university's good, but it's got nothing on this one. You barely have transportation engineering courses, let alone an urban planning department. That actually explains a lot, doesn't it? I wasn't going to go just yet, but it sounds like they really want me to come down and help them out. It'll be nice to be in a city that agrees with me—they're not as rare as you might think.

I'll be back between semesters, but it's mainly because my love lives here for now. I'll check up on how you're doing, and maybe we can still be friends. After all, we've had some good times, and it's not fair to bottle all this up and release it at once. Every city has its problems—if nothing else, at least you'll always be better than Calgary.

So I guess this is it. So long, Edmonton. It was great while it lasted.

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